**BUSINESS** / B1

**Ayala, 3 other firms** bid for gov't majority stake in Maynilad

**LIFESTYLE** / E1

**Filipino opera** singers shine in Singapore

**METRO** / A26

**MRT, LRT alert:** Liquids, gel, etc. banned on trains

**ENTERTAINMENT** / F1

**FPJ, Sharon on top** of Filipinos' list of favorite actors—SWS

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, August 14, 2006 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 247 P18

## Bad grooming bigger threat to airline crews

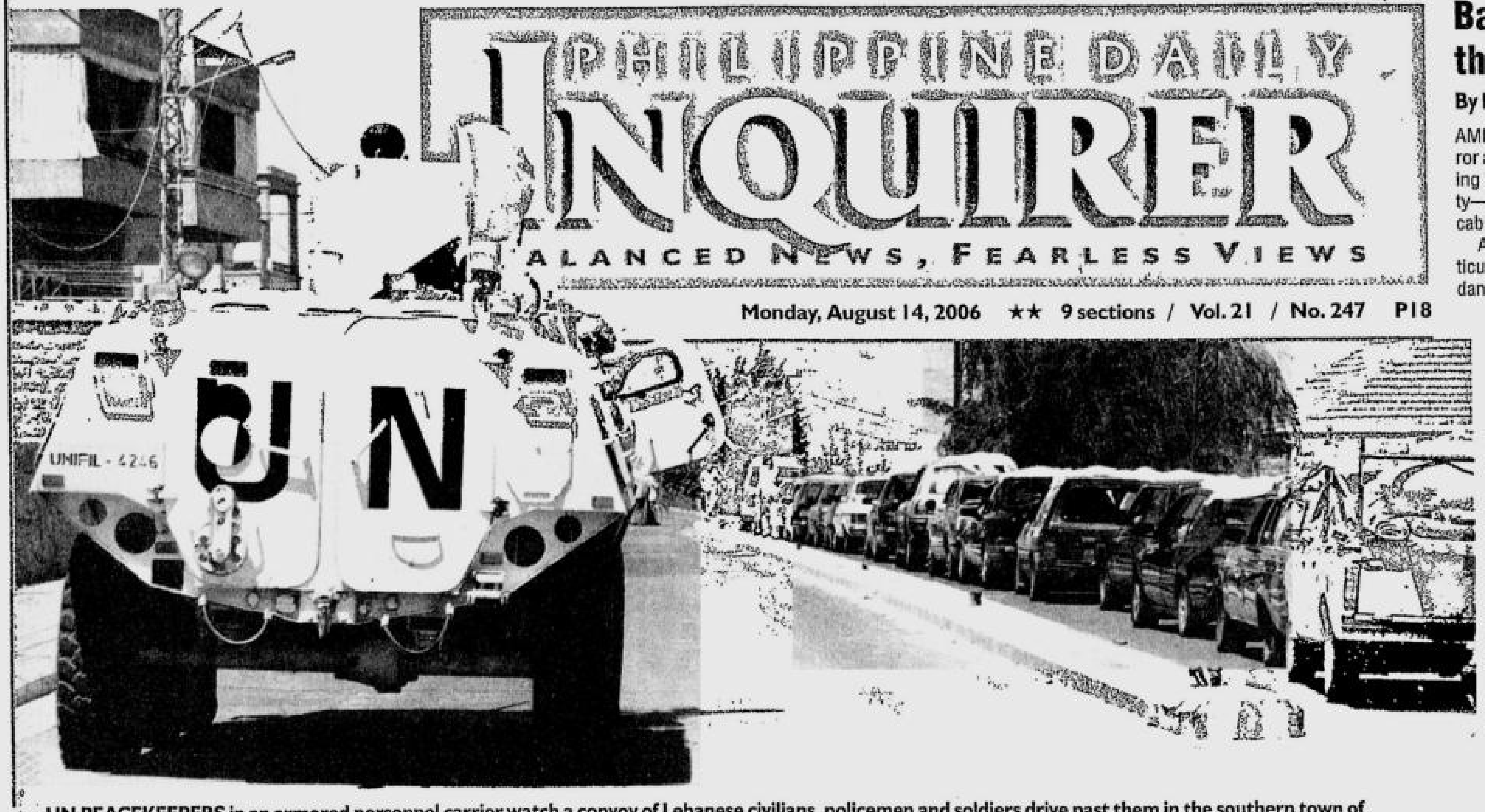
By Nikko Dizon

DAPAT MAGANDA PA DIN KAHIT NAGKAKAGULO NA!

AMID THREATS OF TERror attacks, good grooming is still a necessity—at least for airline cabin attendants.

All airline crews, particularly flight attendants, are exempted

BAD/ A6



**UN PEACEKEEPERS** in an armored personnel carrier watch a convoy of Lebanese civilians, policemen and soldiers drive past them in the southern town of Marjayoun in Lebanon after being detained by Israeli forces. AP

## Lebanon, Israel OK truce amid explosions

BEIRUT, LEBANON—ISRAELI WARplanes pounded south Beirut with at least 20 missiles in a two-minute period on Sunday at nearly the exact moment that the Israeli parliament approved a UN ceasefire plan that was to go into effect today.

The ceasefire brokered by the United Nations to end the monthlong war is scheduled to take effect at 8 a.m. (1 p.m., Manila time).

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the United Nations was preparing to deploy up to 15,000 troops to help enforce the truce. Under the plan, an equal number of Lebanese troops and UN forces are to deploy in south Lebanon and create a Hezbollah-free zone—from the Israel-Lebanon border to Lebanon's Litani River.

But that could take days, perhaps weeks, according to analysts.

As warplanes pounded the hard-hit Dahiyeh suburb, a Hezbollah stronghold just south of Beirut, Israel's Cabinet de-

LEBANON/ A7

# Ceasefire won't stop evacuation of OFWs

## Official says violence in Lebanon will still flare up

By Christine O. Avendaño and Nikko Dizon

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY WELcomed the UN resolution calling for a ceasefire in Lebanon, but Philippine officials feared the situation remained volatile and urged Filipinos to take advantage of the truce to leave the war-battered country.

Another 450 overseas Filipino workers left Beirut for Damascus yesterday for a flight back to the Philippines, leaving the relocation center there empty. This indicates OFW reluctance to leave Lebanon and return home to a life of poverty and lack of opportunities, officials said.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday announced that Israel and Hezbollah had agreed to end hostilities starting today in response to the UN ceasefire resolution on Friday seeking an end to the monthlong war in Lebanon and deploying 15,000 foreign troops to help the Lebanese Army bring back peace in the country's southern region.

"We hail and support the resolution passed by the United Nations Security Council calling for a ceasefire in Lebanon, and we call on the warring parties to silence the guns and place the safety and welfare of innocent civilians in paramount consideration," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

The President said the Philippines remained "deeply concerned for the thousands of our nationals still caught in the clutches of fear." She reiterated her administration's commitment to protect Filipino workers "in the area of conflict."

"We assure them that their safety would be our utmost concern no matter

CEASEFIRE/ A12

## They fasted, and employers let them leave

By Leila B. Salaverria

WHEN THEIR EMPLOYERS IN LEBANON refused to allow them to return home, some Filipinos used hunger strike and their own brand of disobedience campaign to gain their freedom.

Norma Joe, 25, and Jessa Apura, 23, refused to eat or work until their employers relented and allowed them to join a convoy out of Lebanon and a flight back home with 450 Filipino returnees on Saturday courtesy of the US-funded International Organization for Migration.

Joe, who comes from Basilan, fasted for three days and took only water to show her objection to her boss' decision to keep her in Lebanon purportedly because their home in Zahle was in a safe location.

"When I called the embassy to say that I wanted to go home, someone advised me to stop working to convince my boss, so that's what I did," Joe told the INQUIRER

THEY FASTED/ A6

**ISRAELI** tanks wait for orders at the Israel-Lebanon border. The Israeli Army expanded its ground offensive against Hezbollah forces after more than a month of fighting. AFP

## 3 TV crew members killed in road crash

By Juan Escandor Jr.
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

NAGA CITY—A FEMALE REPORTER, A cameraman and a driver of television network ABC-5 were killed yesterday when their vehicle and a passenger bus collided in Pamplona, Camarines Sur, while they were returning from a coverage of the Mayon Volcano eruptions.

Police and a radio reporter based in Legazpi City in Albay identified the three as Hazel Richeta, reporter, and team members Arnel Guiao and Ismael Cabugayan.

Police provincial director Senior Supt. Romeo Mapalo confirmed to the INQUIRER the identities of the victims but gave no other details.

The bodies were brought to the municipal hall in Pamplona, according to Kabalikat Civicom, a volunteer radio communications group.

The Nissan Frontier vehicle where the three ABC-5 staffers were riding was swept under the bus as the vehicles collided, Kabalikat-Bicol head Jenis Nedia told the INQUIRER.

Initial reports said one of the tires of the Nissan had burst, causing it to swerve, he said.

"The car was a total wreck and it went under the bus. It took us two hours to retrieve the bodies," Nedia said.

The collision occurred at 4:40 p.m. in

3 TV CREW/ A17

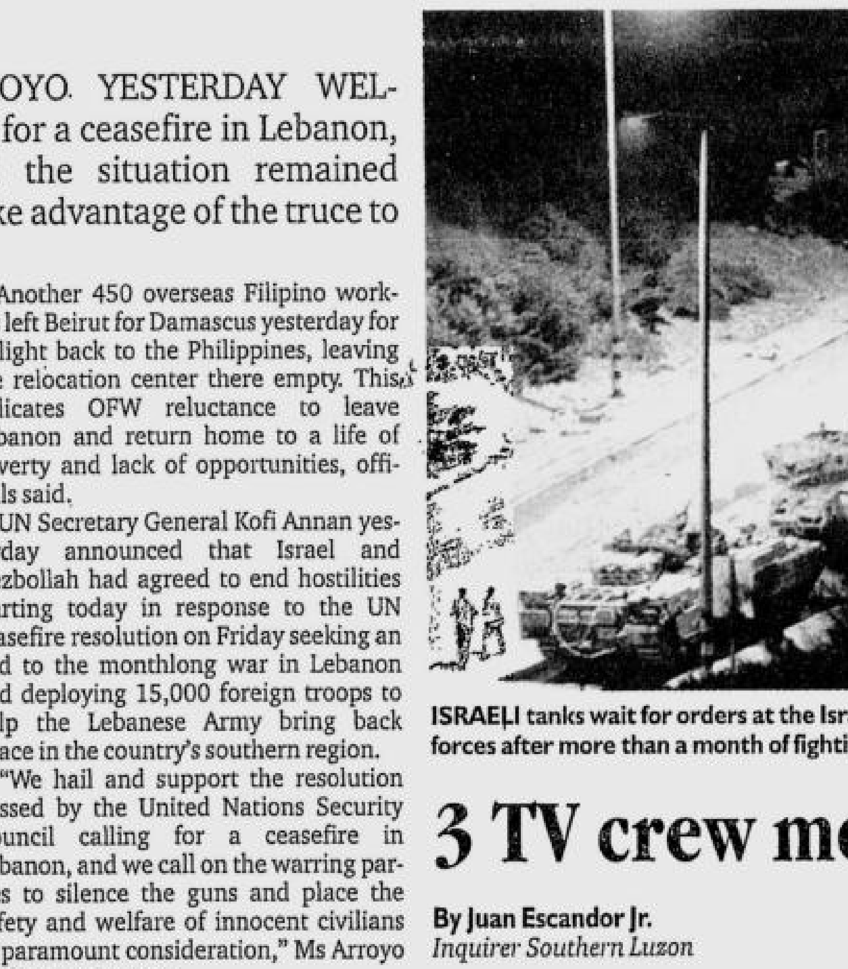
## Peace team traces trail of destruction

By Walden Bello
*Contributor*

*(Editor's note: The writer is a member of the 12-person Civil Society-Parliamentary Peace Mission that is currently in Lebanon. He is a professor at the University of the Philippines and the executive director of the research and advocacy institute Focus on the Global South, based in Bangkok, Thailand.)*

BEIRUT, LEBANON—THE WOUNDS OF war were evident shortly after we crossed the Syria-Lebanon border at 11:30 a.m. on Aug. 12. At Haissa, 3 km

PEACE/ A12



**HANDS-ON PROMO**
Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao signs rows of souvenir gloves in Las Vegas. He will face Mexico's Erik Morales in a nontitle match on Nov. 18. AP

## Conflict of interest issue time bomb in impeachment

By Amando Doronila

**ANALYSIS**

THE TIME BOMB THAT IS THE SECOND impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo in two years ticks as the House of Representatives walks into a heavily seeded mine field of incendiary issues.

A false step could set off the explosive and wreck the entire impeachment proceedings, with potentially disastrous consequences to the process itself and to congressmen.

The bomb metaphor refers to the fact that last week, when the House committee on justice began hearings, it decided to reduce the top-heavy complaints to one from the original eight, and it gave itself a deadline to complete the hearings "within six session days."

The throwing out of seven complaints after the committee decided that they were "prohibited" because they were lodged within the one-year constitutional ban on filing an impeachment charge against the President and the recognition of the case initiated by the Black and White Movement endorsed by a Liberal Party congressman was a welcome decision. It, however, created false hopes that the House was expediting the process.

At the start, the committee ran into its first delay when the hearing bogged down on the issue involving the ethics of members even before it had even scratched the surface of the merits of the complaint.

CONFLICT/ A17

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon and Western Visayas will experience occasional monsoon rains becoming widespread over Central and western section of Southern Luzon. The rest of Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/13/06 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

# Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Rains |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Rains | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

# Cedula spurs abuses in N. Ecija

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE IN HIS 30s WAS forced to walk home only in his underwear one late evening in Nueva Ecija. That was his punishment for failing to present a cedula (resident certificate) at a military checkpoint.

A female vegetable vendor fortunately had one. But her certificate dated 2005 didn't keep her from one soldier's self-styled punishment. She was ordered to swallow her expired cedula in his presence.

One barangay captain thought he would be spared from the abuse, owing to his stature in the community. He, too, was made to eat the piece of paper.

As part of its campaign to flush out communist insurgents, soldiers in Nueva Ecija are asking residents to show their cedulas.

"Do I still need a cedula?" a female beggar asked a group of soldiers. Irked by her question, one of them hit her in the face and stomach. End of conversation.

Accounts of widespread abuses allegedly perpetrated by the Army's 7th Infantry Division under Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan are sucking the life out of communities in Nueva Ecija, two residents told the INQUIRER on Saturday.

"We're afraid. They make no distinction between men and women, young and old. They just harass anybody," said one of them, a 26-year-old female government worker from San Jose City, who asked not to be named to protect her job.

For about two weeks now, barrio folks have been staying clear of the streets, especially during the 9 p.m. to 4 a.m. curfew purportedly imposed by the military, according to the resident.

There is talk of how Palparan and his men were trying to squeeze information about communist rebels from hapless residents.

Palparan, notoriously known among militant groups as "The Butcher," last week told businessmen in Nueva Ecija to personally go to him and rattle off names.

## Martial law

"It's like martial law in here," said the other resident, a 20-year-old employee of a private company.

Staying home doesn't guarantee safety from military operations in Nueva Ecija, the two sources said.

Often, they said soldiers would barge into houses, carrying a list of alleged NPA supporters. They would count the plates for the absurd reason that they should match the number of people in a household, they said.

More stories of alleged military abuses circulate among terrified residents—soldiers extracting a resident's fingernails, or someone killing himself out of overwhelming fear of Palparan. *With a report from Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

# Solons seek dialogue over Senate probes

**By TJ Burgonio**

MORE SENATORS, INCLUDING PRESIDENTial allies, are pushing for a dialogue with Malacañang over differing interpretations of the Supreme Court ruling on Executive Order No. 464, particularly on government officials' appearance at inquiries.

"We should have a dialogue for the purpose of a harmonious relationship for the good of the country," Sen. Joker Arroyo said in an interview.

The agenda should be the "ground rules for investigation," he said, adding: "We should have a dialogue on a working arrangement because this is done by the government."

Sen. Edgardo Angara broached the idea of a dialogue last week, saying both sides should sit down and draft a "gentleman's agreement" on how to comply with the SC ruling throwing out EO 464, which barred officials from appearing at inquiries without the President's go-signal.

Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan voiced support for this, saying that while there were issues in which the senators "do not see eye to eye" with the Palace, "There is no way that one branch can ignore another and still expect to have a dynamic and effective constitutional democracy."

There was another impasse when Malacañang snubbed the Senate's inquiries into the status of the overseas workers' funds and the alleged leakage during the June nursing board examinations.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita argued that the snubs were an offshoot of the chamber's failure to name the statute related to the inquiry as well as the advance questions, as suggested by the SC decision, but the Senate maintained that this applied only to the question hour.

At the question hour, officials are given the privilege of being furnished advance questions.

While riled by the snubs, the senators merely asked their legal department to study the high court ruling vis-á-vis the snubs, and even suspended their inquiry into the status of the overseas workers' trust fund until the crisis in war-torn Lebanon was over.

Arroyo, however, insisted that the Palace allow officials of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Regulation Commission to attend separate hearings on the use of Owwa funds for private investments, and on the leakage of test questions in the nursing board exams.

# Nullification of nursing exam results urged

NULLIFY THE LAST NURSING BOARD EXAM.

This would preserve the integrity of the exams and save the profession from further deterioration, according to nursing educator Dr. Fely Marilyn Lorenzo, director of the Institute of Health Policy and Development Studies at UP Manila's National Institutes of Health.

Lorenzo, who was speaking in behalf of various nursing educators groups and stakeholders, made the statement on Tuesday, the day before the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) was set to meet with the deans of nursing schools on the controversial leakage and recalculation of the results of the exams.

"We are working on nullifying the exam and giving a retake because there are doubts on the [PRC's] recomputation of the grades of those who passed," Lorenzo said.

Because of the way the PRC "manipulated" the grades of those who passed the last exam, Lorenzo said she was not sure if the recomputation was "statistically valid."

"The board exam uses a competency-based framework—meaning the students are tested on their competency of different subject matters. A recomputation does not consider the fact that each part of the exam is different," she said.

Lorenzo also proposed an investigation on the leakage to make sure the quality of nursing education does not decline any further. "The board exams are the most sensitive, most objective and best performance indicator of our nursing schools. If it is bastardized, the profession would be hard put. This is all we have," she said. *Alcuin Papa*

**ROADMAP TO ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

***The good news: It's payback time for the consumers.***

Since 1996, the consuming public has been paying for **UNUSED** power because of the **Purchase Power Agreement (PPA)**. This was put into place because of the severe power shortage that resulted in daily 18-hour brownouts.

Today, we are no longer paying for the UNUSED power. And because of the opening of the **Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM)**, power users through retail competition can purchase 750kW directly from the power generators without having to pass through NAPOCOR.

***The bad news: A Power Crisis could happen in 2008***

A power crisis, reminiscent of the early 1990s, is foreseen due to the lack of new power generating plants. With our country's existing facilities, we cannot sustain the projected increase in demand for power amounting to **4,438MW**. We must also take into consideration the existing power plants generating **3,212MW** that are old, antiquated and obsolete because they still use diesel gas turbines and bunker oil.

***If we don't do something about this, we will have brownouts by the summer of 2008.***

Our country desperately needs to attract foreign investment to pour in the capital needed to generate our added power requirements. Thus, **the Privatization of TRANSCO is key** because interested bidders are reluctant unless the winning concessionaire is given a 25-year congressional franchise to operate.

COPW proposes that the government follow the PETRON formula which will grant 40% to the winning bidder, 40% to the government and 20% to the public.

***What must be done to leapfrog into the future.***

The development of alternative power sources like hydro, geothermal, wind power, coal and especially natural gas must be given priority in order for us to achieve energy self-sufficiency.

***COPW will work closely with the NPC, DOE and the PNOC on the development of Natural Gas as an alternative power source and recommends the following:***

1. ***Leapfrog into the new technology of importing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)*** from the gas fields of Indonesia, Brunei, Australia and Qatar in 2008 on tankers carrying CNG on the way to China, Japan and Taiwan that passes through the Philippines.
2. ***Establish Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) terminals and distribution facilities in Limay, Mariveles and Pagbilao*** which will be connected by common pipelines and accessible to all.

The pipelines will form a Greenfield Highway along the corridors of South Luzon, Metro Manila and Central Luzon that will supply CNG to the transport sector as well as private vehicles.

This pipeline will also provide natural gas for ***district cooling for high rise buildings.***

COPW calls for unity and urges the government and the private sector to focus and work hand-in-hand in finding a solution to the country's power problems.

COPW believes that with strategic planning and implementation, the Philippines can attain ***at least 80% energy self-sufficiency*** and ***NOT be dependent on petroleum-based products*** for power generation by 2010.

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

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# GMA seeks global meet on terrorism

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

ARROYO

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is seeking a global meeting on counterterrorism because of the need for a "broader and more effective global strategy against terrorism," her spokesperson said yesterday.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Arroyo's call the other day for a convention on counterterrorism before a gathering of Asian Pacific businessmen in Cebu clearly showed the country's "unwavering commitment to the global war against terror."

"We have fought terrorism in our shores long before 9/11 and we have continuously advocated multinational cooperation especially in our region," he said in his "View from the Palace" column.

"After all, terrorism in its present-day form knows no boundaries and respects neither color nor religion."

In Cebu, the President cited on Saturday the urgent need for a counterterrorism convention when the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) meet in December. Manila is hosting the Asean summit as well as the East Asian summit.

Ms Arroyo's call before the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Business Advisory Council came two days after she ordered a nationwide security alert in reaction to the British government's discovery of a terrorist plot to blow up aircraft between the United Kingdom and the United States.

"President Arroyo envisions a broader and more effective global strategy against terrorism based on stronger intelligence fusion and information sharing, bilateral and multilateral training and operations, community-level vigilance and interfaith solidarity," Bunye said, in explaining the Chief Executive's desire for the global counterterrorism meeting.

He explained that the objective of the proposed global cooperation was "over-all strategic planning and expanded capacity-building among developed and developing countries—with a keen sensitivity to each country's cultures and religions."

The country has been engaged in the fight against terror, Bunye said as he cited the continued military operations against the Abu Sayyaf and the Indonesia-based terror network Jemaah Islamiyah, "the tentacles of the al-Qaida."

"We have scored success after success in the campaign against evil and we would continue to use the hand of steel in flushing out its cells and clandestine networks," Bunye said.

He cited the latest military offensive last week which saw authorities capturing an ASG "Bomb Factory."

"Our uncompromising campaign against terror has become imperative because our political and economic security, and that of the world, depends on it," Bunye said.

# Police see more killings solved in next 8 weeks

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

A SENIOR POLICE official yesterday expressed confidence they could solve eight more cases of extra-judicial killings within the next eight weeks.

"We have given targets to our units. We are waiting for compliance," said Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., the Philippine National Police's second highest official and head of Task Force Usig.

Razon said police are also confident they can collar suspects in the killings of left-wing activists.

So far, police claimed to have solved two cases of killings of media persons with the arrests of their alleged triggermen. In one of these cases, police also took into custody two cops on accusations they helped plan the robbery that led to the media man's death.

These two cases, however, were not work-related, investigators said. "We can resolve cases and we can catch suspects," Razon said, referring to the killings of activists.

Police consider a case "solved" once a suspect is identified and charged in court, whether or not he or she is arrested.

The Senate has threatened not to pass the antiterror bill until all political killings throughout the country stop.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Friday called for the swift passage of the much delayed bill following the discovery of an alleged plot in Britain to blow up US passenger aircraft over the Atlantic.

Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in a statement Sunday there was an urgent need for an antiterror bill but "only when the government shows its sincerity and determination in solving and preventing killings attributed to police and military."

"The problem with the government of President Arroyo is that even if there is no antiterrorism law, it has been harassing people perceived to be her enemies.

"They are being treated like terrorists."

More than 100 journalists, human rights lawyers, judges, trade union officials and left-wing activists have been murdered since Ms Arroyo came to power in 2001.

Amnesty International recently called on Ms Arroyo to "show she means business by implementing concrete measures to prevent the deaths of more activists."

Last December the antiterror bill was passed by the Arroyo-dominated lower house but it needs to be passed by the Senate to become law. Ms Arroyo does not have a majority in the 24-member Senate.

The Senate has placed the antiterror bill among its priorities this session.

Earlier this month police offered rewards as high as P100,000 for information leading to the capture of gunmen responsible for a spate of killings targeting journalists and activists.

Police earlier admitted difficulty in going after the assassins of activists, saying witnesses have failed to come forward and the murders have occurred in far-flung areas.

National democratic groups, such as Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, believed security forces of government were behind the campaign to decimate their ranks, with the police covering up the tracks of the assassins. *With an AFP report*

# Promotion of Garci's men hit

**TJ Burgonio**

WITH VIRGILIO GARCILLANO dodging prosecution for his alleged role in the May 2004 presidential vote fraud, could his boys be enjoying the same fate?

Garcillano's protegès in Mindanao—election officials who allegedly helped him rig the results of the elections to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory—not only escaped prosecution, but had moved up in the bureaucracy, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Pimentel said the promotion of the alleged "election operators" was not only questionable but "unsettling" since the Commission on Elections is set to hold the May 2007 national elections nine months from now.

"This leaves not only a bad taste in the mouth, but it is also unsettling because the Comelec has a primordial function in preserving the democratic experiment (elections) that we have," he said in a statement.

The senator questioned the promotion of the "tainted officials," asserting that they had not been officially cleared by Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Jr., who initiated an investigation of their alleged role in the "Hello Garci" tape scandal.

And with them at the helm of the Comelec's regional offices in Mindanao, the "machinery for cheating" would remain intact for next year's mid-term elections, Pimentel charged.

Pimentel said he learned that lawyer Rey Sumalipao had been promoted to the post of Comelec regional director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Sumalipao chaired the provincial board of canvassers in Lanao del Sur in 2004, one of four ARMM provinces, where the National Movement for Free Elections had claimed votes for Ms Arroyo were padded while those for her rivals were shaved.

Another Garcillano protege, lawyer Renato Mabutay had moved up from being ARMM regional director in 2004 to the post of regional director for northern Mindanao, according to Pimentel.

Also promoted to juicy posts were lawyers Francisco Pobe and Renault Macarambon.

The promotion of these "undeserving election officers" had caused demoralization among Comelec officials and employees who had expressed their desire to have the elections body "cleansed of the stigma as a corrupt and discredited institution," Pimentel said.

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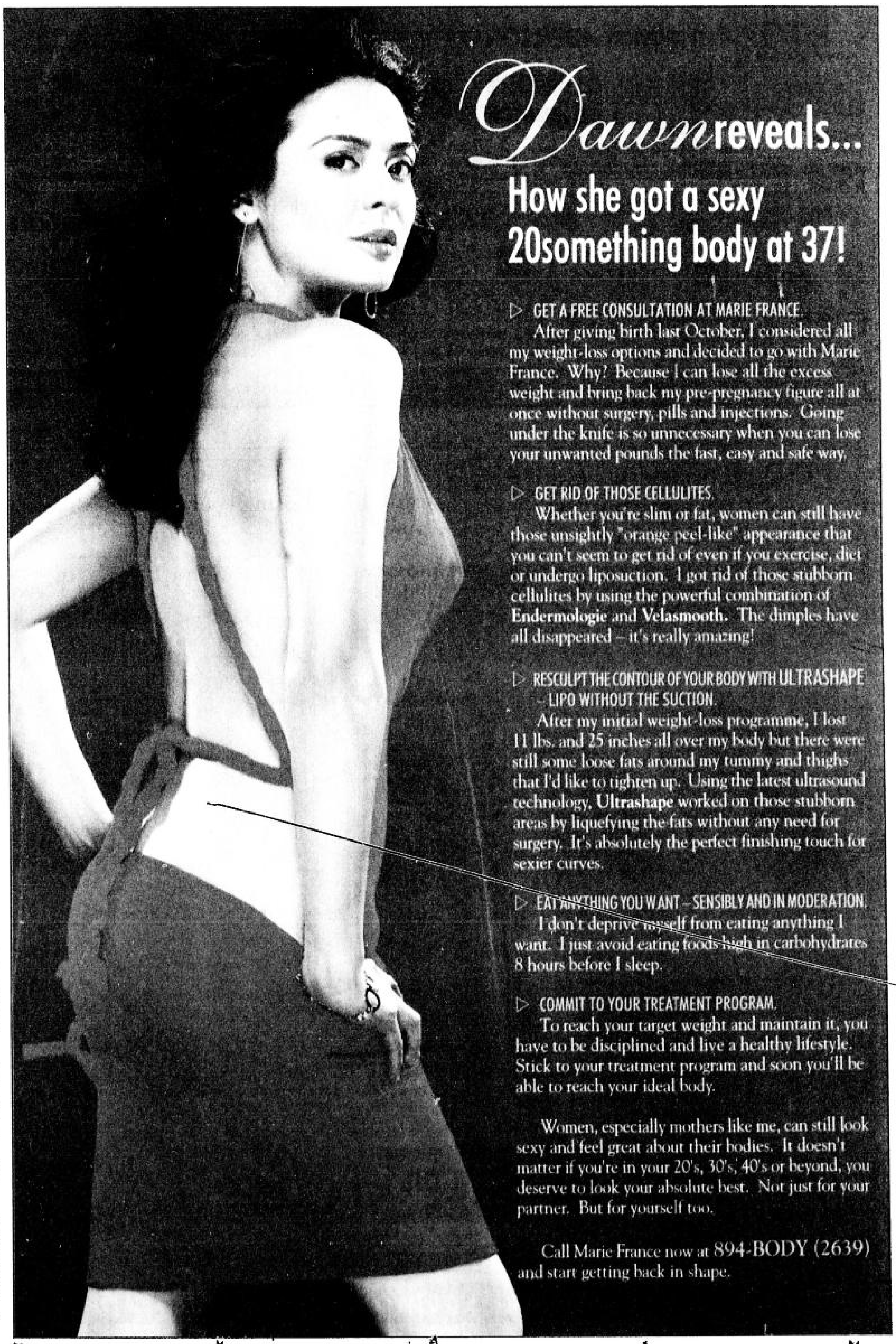

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How she got a sexy 20something body at 37!

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Women, especially mothers like me, can still look sexy and feel great about their bodies. It doesn't matter if you're in your 20's, 30's, 40's or beyond, you deserve to look your absolute best. Not just for your partner. But for yourself too.

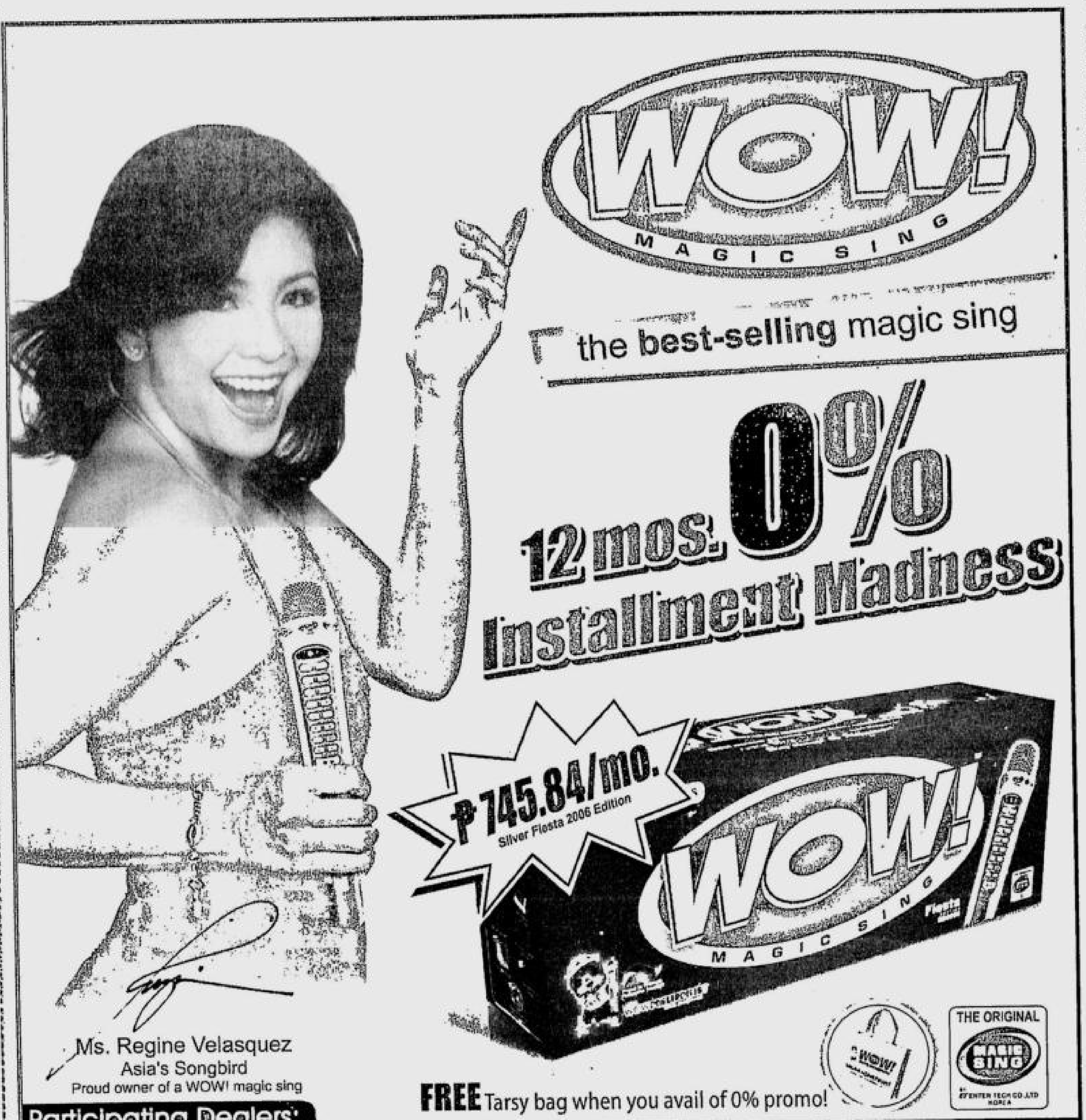
Call Marie France now at 894-BODY (2639) and start getting back in shape.

## Corrections

IN THE AUG. 12 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Palparan not slowing down into 30-day homestretch"—misstated the name of a Nueva Ecija town. The name of the town in Nueva Ecija is Bongabon—not Bongabong.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 13 ISSUE of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine, an article in "Movers and Shakers" on Page 4—"Bliss with passion defines Aurora Pijuan"—misstated that 37 years ago, Aurora Pijuan became the first Filipino to win the Miss International crown. Pijuan won the title in 1970—that's 36 years ago. She was also not the first Filipino to be crowned Miss International. That distinction belongs to Gemma Cruz-Araneta who won the title in 1964.



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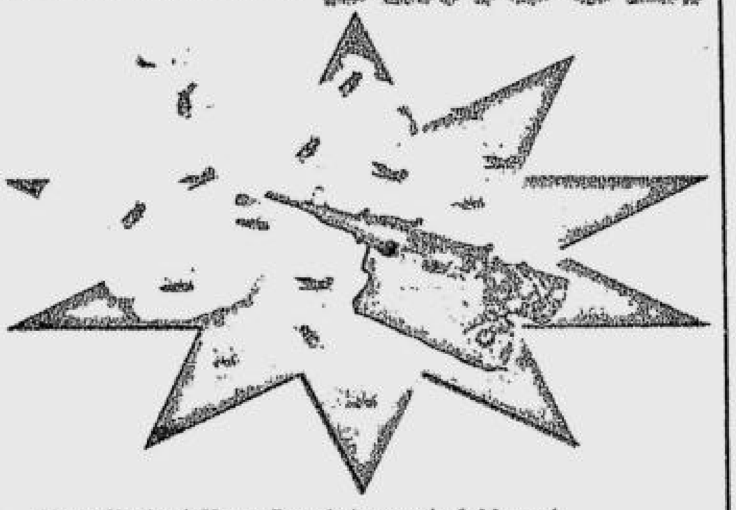

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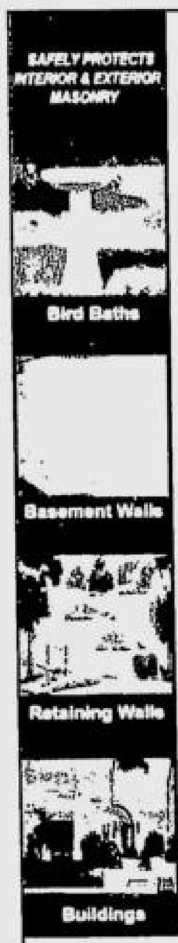

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# Sequestration of Philcomsat upheld–PCGG

By Alcuin Papa

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS UPHELD THE SEquestration of the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC) and the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said yesterday.

In a statement, the PCGG said the anti-graft court denied the motions of reconsideration filed by the two companies questioning the validity of the sequestration orders issued on them by the PCGG.

PCGG Commissioner Nicasio A. Conti, Commissioner for Legal Affairs, said the Sandiganbayan resolution promulgated last Aug. 2, 2006 rejected all the issues raised by the two companies in their motion filed on Dec. 16, 2005.

Among these issues, Conti said, include the validity of the sequestration order signed solely by one commissioner, that the sequestration order is no longer necessary under the present circumstances and that there was no prima facie case for their sequestration.

POTC and Philcomsat had insisted that the sequestration order dated March 14, 1986 was null and void because it was signed by only one commissioner but the Sandiganbayan rejected the argument.

The anti-graft court cited a 1997 Supreme Court decision by present Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban that upheld the validity of the sequestration orders signed and issued "For The Commission" by only one PCGG Commissioner.

The Sandiganbayan also explained that even if the words "For The Commission" were omitted, "this could not and should not affect the validity of the sequestration order" for as long as it was signed by any one of the PCGG commissioners since "the tenor of the contents of the questioned sequestration order substantially complied with the provisions of Executive Order No. 1."

Executive Order No. 1 created the PCGG which was mandated to go after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies. In the case of the POTC and Philcomsat, the sequestration order was signed solely by former PCGG Commissioner Ramon Diaz Conti also said the Sandiganbayan also recognized that the sequestration order of the two companies was still necessary even today, contrary to the argument of POTC and Philcomsat in their petitions.

# 2 mayors charged with graft

THE OMBUDSMAN has filed graft charges against two municipal mayors for alleged malversation of public funds.

Charged before the Sandiganbayan were Bakun, Benguet mayor Bartolome Sacla Sr. and Mamburao, Mindoro mayor Joel Panaligan.

Records of the Ombudsman show that Sacla and his co-accused, municipal treasurer Manuel Bagayao, approved the issuance of a check worth P5 million for the ghost purchase of medical supplies from DMI Medical Supply.

The Commission on Audit in the Cordillera Administrative Region had earlier discovered that the P5-million check was drawn from the trust fund of the Municipality of Bakun without any supporting documents such as voucher.

The Ombudsman also charged Panaligan, Mamburao municipal treasurer Deoridina Reyes, and municipal accountant Mary Anne Alcaide with violation of Article 220 of the Revised Penal Code or for Illegal Use of Public Funds or Property.

The three officials allegedly used the General Services Fund of the Municipal Mayor's Office to pay the salaries of casual employees not under the town's jurisdiction.

Aside from the criminal charges, the Ombudsman also suspended Panaligan, Reyes and Alcaide for one month and one day.

*Norman Bordadora*

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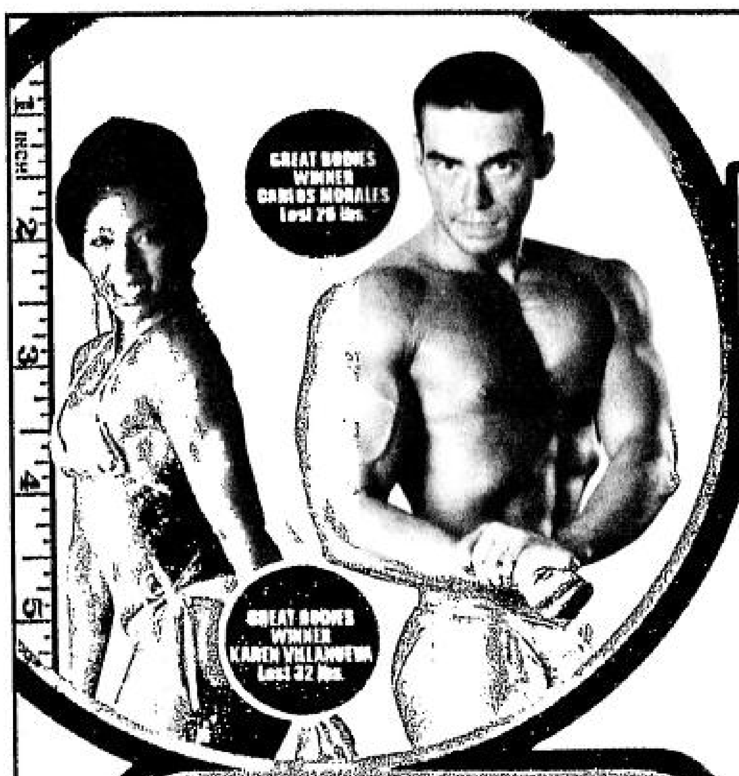
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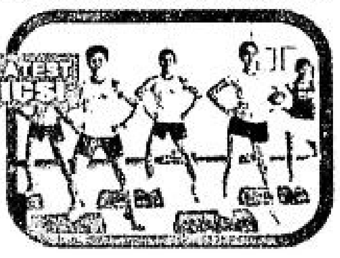
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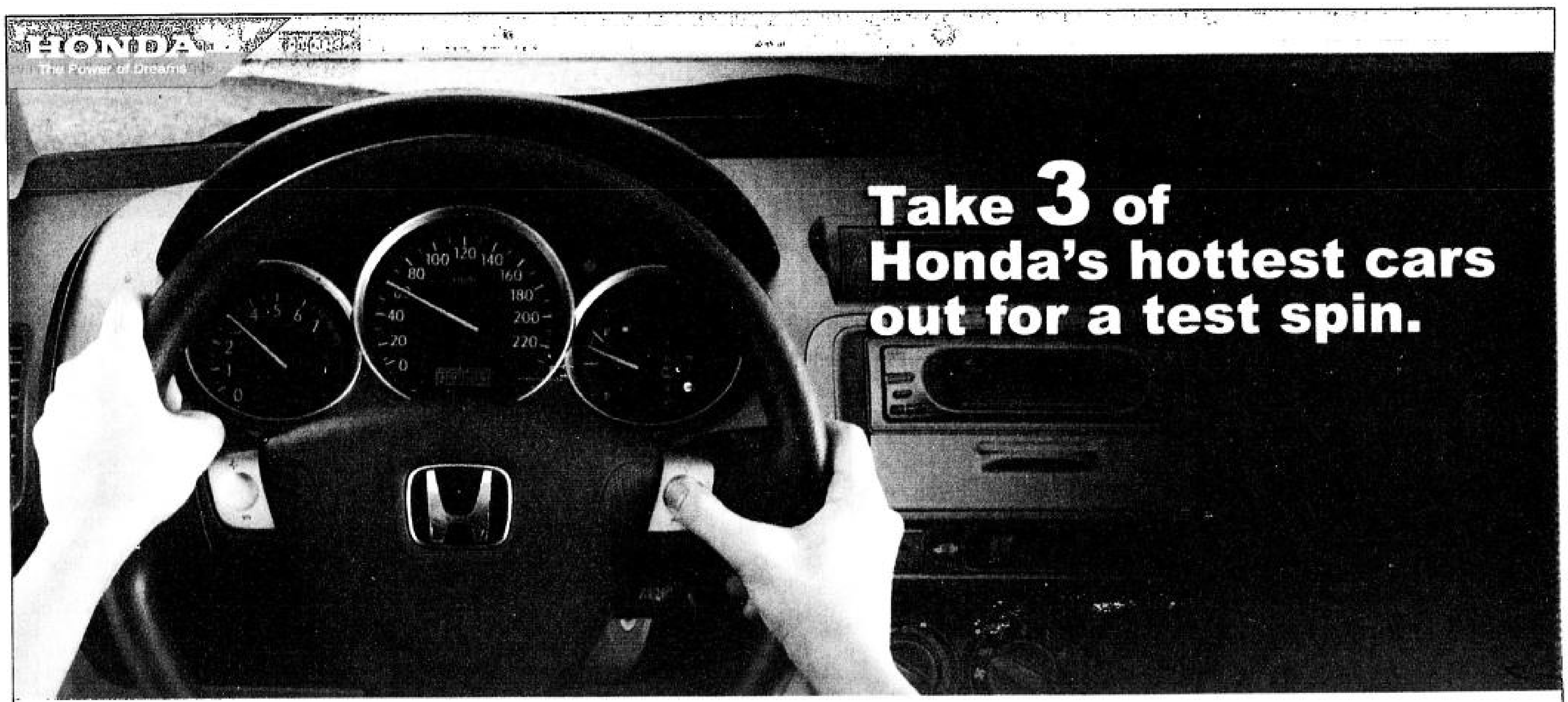

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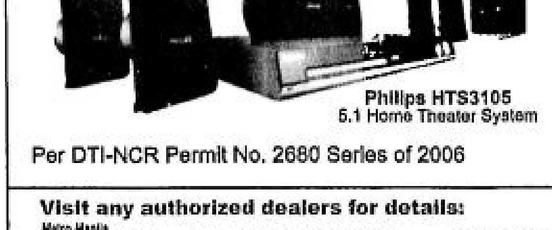

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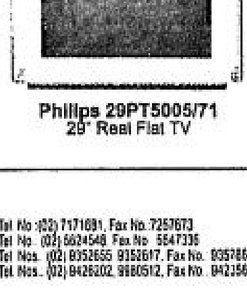

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# They fasted, and employers let them leave

From page A1

yesterday in an interview at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration office.

She said she wanted to leave Lebanon because the bombings scared her.

### No bombings in Basilan

"In Basilan, there's only gunfight, not bombings. I'm not used to bombings," she said.

On what was supposed to be the fourth day of her hunger strike, her boss took pity on her and brought her to the embassy.

Joe said her employer had treated her well and she loved his three children. Each of them even wrote a message on her notebook saying they would miss her.

Ghada, 10, said: "I really want you to stay but if you don't want to stay, it's OK. I will miss you so much. I hope you will come back. Please call us when you get to the Philippines. Don't forget."

Apura, a Davao resident, worked for a colonel in the Lebanese military and joined the family when it went to Aramon, a province in the mountains, to escape the bombings in Dahe, an area where she said mostly Hezbollah members and supporters lived.

The timing was just right. Shortly after they left, their apartment building caught fire from a generator that was damaged in a bombing. She lost all her clothes in the fire.

Apura said her employer forbade her to go home, saying it was safe in the mountains.

### Boss got irritated

But she was worried about her family. She also stopped working and didn't eat for two days. Every time her boss would talk to her, she would cry.

"My boss got irritated and brought me to church. But she didn't give me two months salary," she said.

When Apura went home, she did not have money or clothes save for pajamas since her belongings were burned.

Gemma Adorable, 35, outsmarted her employer in Beirut to escape. She put her clothes in a large, black trash bag and asked a friend to keep it.

Adorable then asked for permission to go out to send money to her parents in Iloilo. She said it was the only way that her boss would allow her to leave the house.

"We were only allowed to go out for important reasons, like sending money home," she said.

### Sister helped her

When Adorable went out of the house, she only had with her a Bible and an album filled with pictures of her 3-year-old daughter. She didn't even have her passport, which was with her boss. She went straight to her friend who accompanied her to the Philippine Embassy.

Adorable said her boss did not want her to leave because the latter had paid a big amount to hire her. But her parents were worried about her and wanted her to return to Iloilo.

When Adorable arrived home Sunday night, her clothes were not in a trash bag anymore. She said a sister who stayed on in Lebanon gave her her belongings before she went to Syria to take the flight back home.

Irish Blanco, 22, did not need to resort to tricks or hysterics to get home despite working for a family with Hezbollah members.

Blanco said that the family was staying in a house in Jibal to escape the bombings when she broached the idea of going back to the Philippines. Her employers objected at first, saying she was safe with them.

### Worried mom

But Blanco called home and asked her sister to inform the embassy in Lebanon that she wanted to return to the Philippines. The embassy then called her employer and asked him to bring her to the embassy because the Philippine government had ordered the evacuation of all Filipinos.

"I also told them that my mother was worried and that I did not want her to get sick because of me," she said.

Though reluctant, Blanco's boss agreed to send her home. He did not give her her salary for two months, but promised to send it to the Philippines. Her boss instead gave her $100 in pocket money.

Yesterday morning, Blanco used the money to buy a cell phone and clothes at a shopping mall in Manila. She also bought chocolate bars in Lebanon, one of which she insisted on giving to this reporter.

Marilou Lopez, a 27-year-old from Butuan, had the easiest time going to the Philippine Embassy.

She worked as a manicurist in a salon in central Beirut. When the war broke out, business became slow. Her employer decided to bring her to the Philippine Embassy so that she could go home.

### Until bombs fell closer

But because war had not been felt then in Beirut, Lopez left the Philippine Embassy and went to a friend's house. She worked briefly in an office where she made coffee, but soon quit because businesses were closing down.

She also said she began to be afraid because she could hear the bombings from afar, which was why she returned to the embassy last week.

The returnees were all cheerful and in high spirits as they waited for their trip home from the Owwa office yesterday, even though most of them came home with very few belongings and little money.

"Why won't we be happy? We're home," said Norma Joe.

**FILIPINO** workers return from troubled Beirut with different stories about their employers. INQUIRER PHOTO

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# Bad grooming . . .

From page A1

from the "no liquids, no gel" ban being enforced at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) on US-bound passengers and US carriers, a ranking security official said yesterday.

"They are always expected to look their best, even at this time when everybody is security conscious," Supt. Rizalino Roxas, in charge of police and intelligence operations at Naia, told the INQUIRER.

Roxas said cabin attendants could not do away with their perfumes, hair gels, toothpastes, mouth wash and other grooming necessities because part of their job was to always look and smell good.

International airports, including the Naia, raised their security alert levels after British police discovered what they said was a plot to blow up trans-Atlantic flights using liquid-based explosives.

In particular, liquids, gels and other products of similar fluid consistency have been banned on aircraft cabins of US-bound flights and US carriers.

"The grooming kits of their cabin crew were raised by airline officials during one of our security meetings," Roxas said. "The airlines said they would be responsible for their own crew."

Roxas also said that passengers on regional flights would be allowed to buy liquids, gels, and other similar products at the Naia duty free shops and keep them in their hand carried bags.

As a security measure, the Naia will implement starting today a "no touch" policy on items purchased from the duty free shops.

Under this policy, passengers will be given purchase receipts at the counter but it is the duty free shop staff who will bring the purchased items directly to the boarding gate and hand them to the passengers.

"Afterward, passengers not bound for the US or are not on US carriers will be allowed to put these items inside their hand carry bags," Roxas explained.

For passengers of US carriers or those going to the United States, the duty free shop staff will hand the purchased items to the airline personnel at the boarding gate.

"The passenger will have to claim the items he bought at the duty free at his final destination in the US," Roxas said.

He said that, starting today, security officers at the initial security check would inform passengers that they would have to put liquids, gels and items of similar consistency in their check-in luggage.

If a US-bound or US carrier passenger fails to do this at the initial security check, security officers at the final security check will confiscate the items and deposit them in a receptacle.

Roxas said these items would be discarded.

The ban on liquids and gel will be enforced on domestic flights, as well.

Roxas said passengers could still buy bottled water or juices at concessionaire stores at the domestic terminals. But these items would be prohibited on board starting today.

Passengers are still allowed to bring prescribed medicines or infant formula into the cabin. These will, however, be checked prior to boarding by medical personnel.

Airport chief Alfonso Cusi reminded those who must take medicines while in flight to present their doctors' corresponding prescription. Baby milk will also be inspected, like by having it tasted, he said.

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# Lebanon, Israel OK truce amid explosions

From page A1

bated then approved the UN ceasefire resolution.

The Lebanese government approved the truce on Saturday night, shortly after Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said his fighters would abide by the agreement but would not stop fighting until all Israeli troops withdrew.

Statements on both sides of the border portend no quick end to the bloody conflict. Despite the ceasefire, the potential for more clashes is high.

Israeli warplanes earlier fired missiles into several gasoline stations in the southern port city of Tyre and killed at least 10 people in those and other attacks as other jets ranged across the skies above Lebanon from north to south on the final day before a ceasefire was to take hold.

On Saturday, some 30,000 Israeli troops fought heavy battles with Hezbollah guerrillas in the deepest Israeli push into Lebanon.

In what is considered the deadliest day of the war for the Jewish state, however, Israel lost 24 soldiers, including five on a helicopter shot out of the air by Hezbollah guerrilla fighters. It was the first time that an Israeli helicopter had been shot down in the war.

## End pain and suffering

"I am very happy to announce (Israel and Lebanon) have agreed that the cessation of hostilities and the end of the fighting will enter into force on 14 August," Annan said in a statement in New York.

"Preferably, the fighting should stop now to respect the spirit and intent of the Security Council decision, the object of which was to save civilian lives, to spare the pain and suffering that the civilians on both sides are living through," he added.

Israel said it hoped Lebanese troops would start deploying quickly, within a week or two. France is widely expected to lead the UN force, which will expand the existing Unifil, currently numbering about 2,000 men.

Even as he agreed to the ceasefire plan, Nasrallah warned that "as long as there is Israeli military movement, Israeli field aggression and Israeli soldiers occupying our land ... it is our natural right to confront them, fight them and defend our land, our homes and ourselves."

## Israeli jets

Huge fires could be seen near the al-Bass Palestinian refugee camp north of Tyre and near the Najem hospital in the city after the filling stations were hit. There were no immediate reports of casualties in the intense series of air strikes.

Attacks near Lebanese Army bases in the east of Tyre killed at least two people. Earlier, at least five people died—a woman, her three children and a housemaid—in a strike that destroyed a building one mile east of the city.

Jets returned to the village about noon and destroyed two more houses near the Lebanese Army post.

In the Bekaa Valley, security officials reported two people killed and four wounded in an air strike on Shaath, north of the Hezbollah stronghold of Baalbek.

Warplanes also destroyed a bridge in the remote Akkar region bordering Syria.

Israeli gunners also shelled several positions along the Litani River, according to security officials. Israeli forces reached the river's south bank on Saturday night as Israel flooded the south of the country with troops and armor and inserted commando units by helicopter near the Litani River, some 30 km from the border.

Israel appears to be trying to trap Hezbollah fighters between forces landed near the Litani and the larger force moving in on the ground from the border.

Israel claimed it killed more than 50 Hezbollah fighters Saturday. A senior Israeli commander, Maj. Gen. Udi Adam, said at least 500 Hezbollah guerrillas had been killed in the war. Hezbollah has announced less than 100 deaths.

## No disarming of Hezbollah

French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy made clear in an interview that the mission of the new UN force would not include disarming Hezbollah by force.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert praised the ceasefire deal, saying it would prevent a return to the status quo in which Hezbollah ran a state within a state in south Lebanon.

Earlier, Olmert said he met with the families of two Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah—their kidnapping July 12 had triggered the war—and that he hoped the captives would now be freed.

However, the truce is not linked to the soldiers' release.

Vice Premier Shimon Peres said that while Israel has to learn lessons from the war, "in my view, we came out of this with the upper hand, both politically and military."

The deal was seen at best as a draw with Hezbollah, and some felt Israel—unable to subdue a guerrillas force—had lost.

Neither the Lebanese Army nor UN forces can be counted on to challenge Hezbollah and prevent the Iran-supplied guerrillas from rearming, military experts said.

The deal buys a period of calm, at best, and sets the region up for the next war with Tehran's proxy army, critics said.

The truce will be "a time-out until the next confrontation, and maybe not even this," commentator Nahum Barnea wrote in Israel's Yediot Ahronot daily.

The violence has claimed more than 900 lives: At least 763 in Lebanon—mostly civilians—and 147 Israelis, including 109 soldiers.

US President George W. Bush had an 8-minute phone call on Saturday with Saniora to discuss the truce. The White House said it was determined to vanquish the hold of Hezbollah—and that of its Syrian and Iranian benefactors—on the south. Reports from AP, Reuters and New York Times News Service

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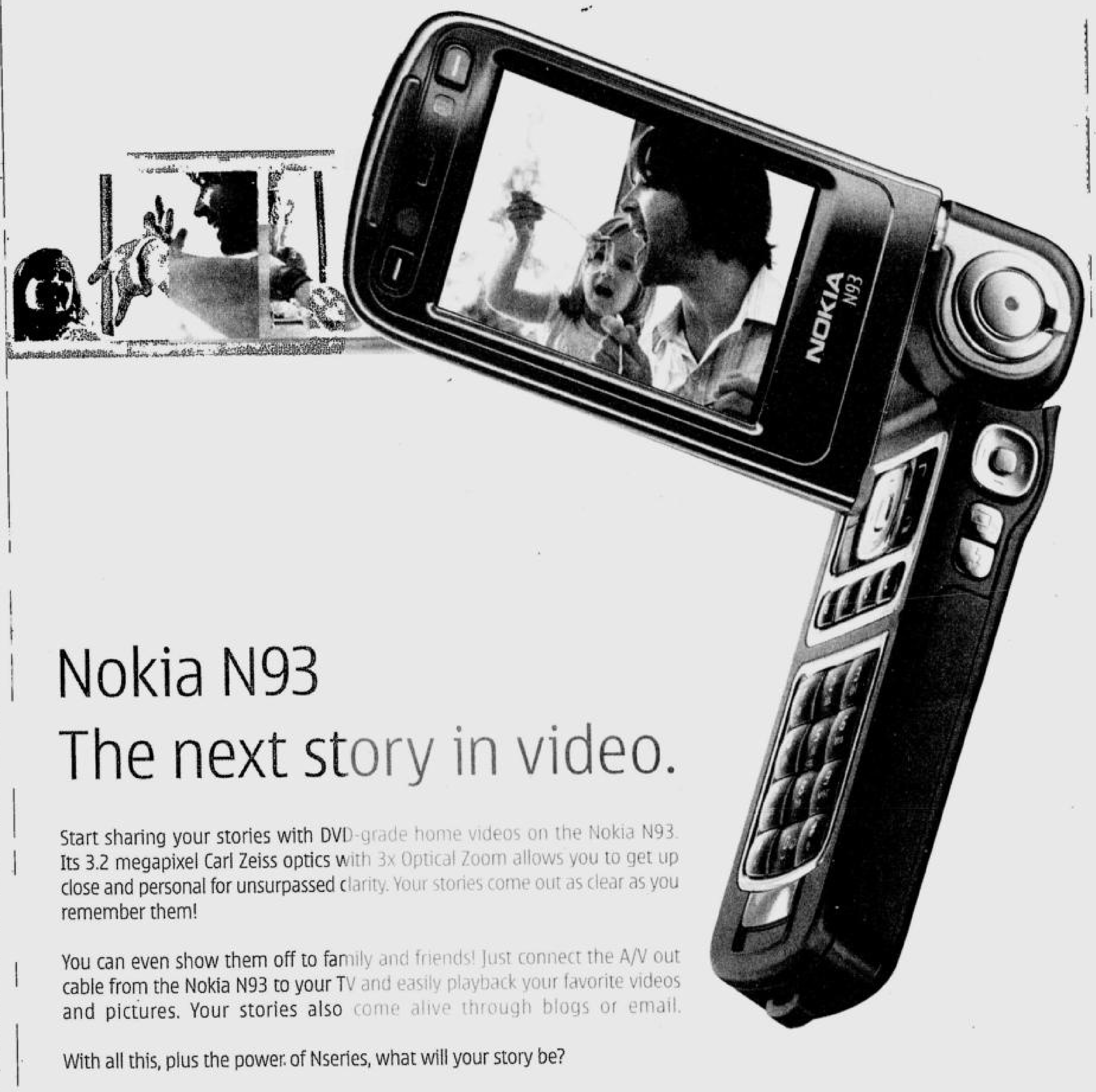

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# 'Swift end' to impeachment bid seen

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

TWO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS yesterday predicted "a swift end" to the new impeachment try after "young guns" of the House of Representatives, who nearly shook the foundation of the majority coalition when they suddenly joined the impeachment bid against President Macapagal-Arroyo in August 2005 finally kissed and made up with Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers said the evacuation of Filipinos in Lebanon, the unabated oil price hikes and other pressing national issues would overshadow the second attempt to unseat Ms Arroyo.

Barbers, the leader of the group which included Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr., Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes Jr. and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, had a tête-à-tête with the Speaker last week in a meeting quietly arranged by top leaders of the ruling Lakas-CMD party.

Barbers said the impeachment should be relegated to the "backburner" in the meantime to allow the government to respond to the Lebanon crisis, and that the legislature and executive should put an end to the political bickering and work together to save the nation from the "claws of despair and hopelessness."

But Remulla is staying with the opposition camp, saying: "It's a personal decision but at the same time, they shouldn't underestimate the quest for truth which does not end even if they stopped supporting the impeachment complaint, and that ultimately it may have an effect on our career."

On Wednesday, members of the House committee on justice unanimously found the eighth and only impeachment complaint against the President sufficient in form, but proimpeachment lawmakers doubt whether the majority would uphold its substance during voting this week.

Rep. Eduardo Zialcita (Lakas, Parañaque) said the statement of Barbers, one of the young but influential leaders of the House, was the "strongest indication of the waning support" for the fresh impeachment bid against the President.

Zialcita said it would be the height of insensitivity by lawmakers if they drag on with the discussions on the impeachment complaint and lose track of the immediate concerns of Filipinos.

"We still need to evacuate the remaining Filipinos in Lebanon despite the United Nations-backed ceasefire. We should also attend to the problem of unabated oil price hike which adversely affects our daily lives and activities," said the lawmakers.

Rep. Rodito Albano III (Kampi, Isabela) said Barbers' decision represented the "real sentiments" of House members and their constituents versus the "propaganda of die-hard proimpeachment solons which has no basis in reality."

# INXS band in Manila

POPULAR AUSTRALIAN ROCK band, INXS, arrived early yesterday morning in Manila for their one-night concert at the Araneta Coliseum on Tuesday as part of their World Tour.

The group, led by its new frontman, JD Fortune, planed in from the US via Philippine Airlines at 6:30 a.m. at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

The band members themselves didn't make much fuss about their arrival, according to those who were lucky enough to chance upon them at the airport.

One told the INQUIRER that he saw Fortune get his own big bag from the conveyor belt, slung it on his shoulder, and casually made his way to the Customs inspection area.

INXS, which made its mark in the rock world in the '80s, made a comeback late last year via "Rockstar: INXS," a reality show cum talent search.

The show wanted to find a new front man who will replace their late lead singer, Michael Hutchence, who died in 1997.

*Nikko Dizon*

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- To 20 out of 23 Senators, including the bitterest critics of the President;
- To the entire Catholic Bishops Conference, headed by Arch. Lagdameo;
- To 76 Congressmen (the best of them);
- To the Cosmopolitan Church and UCCP, umbrella organization of all mainline Protestants;
- To the Buddhists (Universal Wisdom Foundation), including two Tibetan monks;
- To Philippine Daily Inquirer, Michael Tan, Rina Jimenez-David, Philippine Star and Ching Alano for their wonderful articles on breastfeeding;
- To all the 605 doctors, lawyers, mothers, fathers, 80 NGOs and Filipinos of all walks of life who signed petitions for our support;
- To Maria Ella G. Ampongan who collected 236 signatures to protest an anti-breastfeeding letter by Dr. Santiago de Rosario;
- To Pancho Escaler and Iza Bungubung for their Photo Exhibit "Beauty, Brains, Breastfeeding"; and to Jessie Pastor of Blow-Up Babies Studio, courtesy of Quark Henares, for Photo Exhibit ""The 12 Disciples of the Virgin Mother, Role Models of Breastfeeding Mothers", now on display in Malacañang, and will be placed in all SM Malls afterwards;
- To SM Supermalls, Inc. for its Breastfeeding Stations; and
- To Mayor Lito Atienza and his 5,541 mothers for helping us break the Guinness World Record for Simultaneous Breastfeeding on May 4, 2006.

## Program
## 25th Anniversary International Milk Code
## 20th Anniversary National Milk Code (EO 51)
## Launching of IRR of EO 51

Ceremonial Hall, Malacañang, 10:00 to 11:30 AM
Monday, August 14, 2006

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| I. | **Invocation** | Father James B. Reuter, S.J. |
| II. | **Welcome Remarks and Announcement of the Breaking of the Guinness World Record for Simultaneous Breastfeeding** | Elvira L. Henares Esguerrra<br>Children for Breastfeeding |
| III. | **Pledge of Support** | Dr. Nicholas K. Alipui,<br>Country Representative,<br>UNICEF |
| IV. | **Message on the Filing of a Bill in Congress to Amend EO 51** | Cong. Ana York Bondoc,<br>Vice Chair, House Committee on Health |
| V. | **Message and Report on the International Technical Congress on Breastfeeding and Launching of the IRR to EO 51** | Hon. Francisco Duque III,<br>Secretary of Health |
| VI. | **Presentation of the Presidential Order of the Golden Heart to:**<br>**Dr. Natividad Clavano for Pioneering Work in Breastfeeding Advocacy and Infant and Young Child Feeding**<br>**Ms. Manuela Maramba for Pioneering Work in Nutrition and National Diets** | Hilarion M. Henares Jr.,<br>Presidential Consultant |
| VII. | **Serenade to the Breastfeeding Mothers, and Presentation of Seven Acts of Kindness to Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, DD** | Katherine Asis,<br>Elvira Esguerra,<br>Father James Reuter, S.J. |
| VIII. | **Introduction of the President** | Sec. Francisco T. Duque, III |
| IX. | **Keynote Speech** | H. E. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo,<br>President of the Philippines |
| X. | **Press Conference** | |

Mistresses of Ceremonies:
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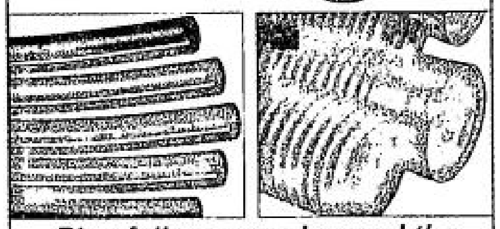

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| 3N SHENZHEN | 3N SHANGHAI | 1N MACAU +1N HKG+1N SZX | NCLEX HONGKONG SAIPAN or GUAM |
|---|---|---|---|
| 109 | 169 | 182 | 393 |

Hongkong Disneyland Packages

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2N HKG·1N SZX w/ Disneyland Daytour | 4D/3N | 188 | FREE PHOTO OR MEAL OR DISNEY THEMED LUNCH BOX |
| 2N HONGKONG+Disneyland Daytour | 3D/2N | 192 | |
| 1N HKG+1N SZX+1N DISNEYLAND | 4D/3N | 243 | |

FREE 2 DISNEY TICKETS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1N HONGKONG+1N DISNEYLAND | 3D/2N | 262 |
| 2N HKG+1N DISNEYLAND | 4D/3N | 279 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 828 | 6D-5N | INDIA | |
| 1598 | 9D/8N | HOLY LAND SPECIAL | 06 NOV DEP. |
| 1888 | 10D/9N | HOLY LAND+ EGYPT+TURKEY | 08 NOV DEP. |
| 2288 | 8D/7N | NAIROBI SAFARI | |
| 2488 | 15D/14N | EUROPE TOUR w/ LONDON | 29 SEP DEP. |
| 2590 | 14D/13N | GREECE & TURKEY | 14 SEP DEP. |

INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1N Hongkong + 1N Shenzhen | 3D/2N | 105 | Kuala + Genting Highlands | 4D/3N | 325 |
| Hongkong Free and Easy | 3D/2N | 125 | Taipei | 3D/2N | 338 |
| 2N Shenzhen + 1N Macau | 4D/3N | 139 | Bangkok + Hongkong | 5D/4N | 349 |
| 2N Hongkong / 1N Shenzhen w/ Oceanpark | 4D/3N | 163 | Hongkong / Shenzhen / Beijing w/ Shanghai Daytour | 6D/5N | 359 |
| Macau Free & Easy | 3D/2N | 195 | Singapore + Malaysia Overland | 6D/5N | 383 |
| Bangkok | 4D/3N | 213 | Singapore + Hongkong | 5D/4N | 385 |
| Singapore Package | 3D/2N | 223 | Kuala + Hongkong | 5D/4N | 388 |
| Saigon | 3D/2N | 275 | Sin + Malaysia + Indonesia + Brunei | 5D/4N | 409 |
| Kuala Lumpur | 3D/2N | 279 | Melbourne | 4D/3N | 615 |
| Bangkok + Pattaya | 4D/3N | 285 | Gold Coast | 4D/3N | 635 |
| Singapore + Malaysia + Indonesia | 4D/3N | 285 | Sydney | 4D/3N | 638 |
| Brunei | 3D/2N | 303 | Brisbane + Gold Coast + Sydney | 6D/5N | 1658 |
| 2N Bangkok 1N Brunei | 4D/3N | 319 | | | |

DOMESTIC PACKAGES 3D 2N

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BORACAY | P 4,200 | CEBU | P 5,000 |
| DAVAO OR PALAWAN | P 5,600 | BOHOL | P 5,800 |

WE ALSO OFFER OTHER INT'L. DESTINATIONS, LOCAL TOUR PKGS, PASSPORT, DOCUMENTATION & VISA ASSISTANCE

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**HONEY HOLIDAYS**

| | |
|---|---|
| HONGKONG | 288up |
| HONGKONG (With DISNEYLAND Day Tour) | 279 |
| HONGKONG + MACAU | 258 |
| HONGKONG + SHENZHEN | 147 |
| HONGKONG + SHENZHEN | 168 |
| HKG w/ DISNEYLAND + SHENZHEN | 238up |
| HKG + SZX + MACAU | 158 |
| SZX + ZHUHAI + MACAU | 119up |
| MACAU+HKG+OVERNIGHT AT DISNEYLAND | 300 |
| MACAU + ZHUHAI +SHENZHEN+HONGKONG | 199 |
| SHANGHAI | 288 |
| SHANGHAI+SHENZHEN | 299 |
| BEIJING | 299 |
| BEIJING+SHANGHAI +HKG W/ Disneyland | 515 |
| BEIJING+SHANGHAI | 434 |
| BEIJING+SHANGHAI+MACAU | 456 |
| XIAN+BEIJING+SHANGHAI | 558 |
| MONGOLIA+BEIJING+ SHANGHAI | 567 |
| BANGKOK | 200up |
| BANGKOK+PATTAYA | 259 |
| ANGKOR WAT +BANGKOK | 567 |
| 3n BKK + 1n HKG + 1n SZX | 289 |
| 4n BKK + 2n HKG | 369 |
| JAPAN TOUR (OSAKA+UNIVERSAL STUDIOS) | 699 |
| JAPAN TOUR (OSAKA+KYOTO+UNIVERSAL STUDIOS+NAGOYA +MT. FUJI+YOKOHAMA+TOKYO) FULLBOARD | 1888 |
| NYC+PHILADELPHIA+ATLANTIC CITY +WASHINGTON DC+NIAGARA FALLS +KUALA | 1990 |
| SYDNEY+HONGKONG | 699 |

SPECIAL PROMO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4D | SINGAPORE (Free & Easy) | $166 |
| 4D | SINGAPORE+MALAYSIA+INDONESIA | $249 |
| 4D | HKG (For nursing students only) | $250 |
| 4D | MACAU + SHENZHEN | $99up |
| 4D | MACAU | $200 |
| 4D | GUILIN+MACAU+SZX | $198 |

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**HONGKONG**

| | |
|---|---|
| SHENZHEN | [illegible] |
| MACAU/SHENZHEN | [illegible] |
| DISNEY PACKAGE | [illegible] |
| FREE & EASY | [illegible] |
| NCLEX HONGKONG/GUAM | [illegible] |

KUALA LUMPUR FREE & EASY · + GENTING
SINGAPORE FREE & EASY · + MALAYSIA INDONESIA
BOTH SHANGHAI+BEIJING+DISNEY · KOTA KINABALU FREE & EASY · BANGKOK FREE & EASY · SYDNEY PACKAGE · EUROPEAN ESSENTIALS
GRAND ILOCOS TOUR · PALAWAN · BORACAY

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HONGKONG | $ 77 | SEOUL | $ 315 | HONOLULU | $ 520 |
| BANGKOK | $ 170/305 | KOTA KINABALU | $ 215 | LAX/SFO | $ 518 |
| SINGAPORE | $ 70/205 | OSAKA | $ 315 | NEW YORK | $ 617 |
| XIAMEN | $ 230 | NAGOYA | $ 335 | VANCOUVER | $ 615 |
| SAIGON | $ 295 | NARITA | $ 395 | LONDON | $ 665 |
| | | AUSTRALIA | $ 415 | | |

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| AIRFARES | | EXCITING PACKAGES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hongkong | $70 $105/$210 | HONGKONG + SHENZHEN PKG | $ 86 |
| Bangkok | $ 170 | SINGAPORE+BANGKOK+HKG PKG | $ 485 |
| Kuala Lumpur | $ 240 | 2nites HONGKONG+2nites BANGKOK | $ 335 |
| Singapore | $ 72 | 2nites SINGAPORE+2nites HKG PKG | $ 386 |
| West Coast (NW) | $ 519 | 2nites KUALA+2nites HONGKONG | $ 386 |
| East Coast (NW) | $ 618 | 2nites SINGAPORE (PAL) | $ 252 |
| Australia | $ 414 | KUALA LUMPUR+ SINGAPORE PKG | $ 359 |
| Seoul | $ 333 | 2nites BANGKOK+1nite SINGAPORE | $ 368 |
| Shanghai | $ 285 | KUALA LUMPUR+BANGKOK PKG | $ 429 |
| Narita | $ 399 | 8d7n BJS+SHA+HKG w/ Disney | $ 529 |
| Europe | $ 759 | 4days SHANGHAI via PAL | $ 422 |
| VANCOUVER | $ 638 | 5days BEIJING Fullboard via PAL | $ 539 |
| | | MACAU PACKAGE | $ 224 |
| | | CAMBODIA+BANGKOK PKG (TG) | $ 549 |
| | | 3nites AUSTRALIA PACKAGE | $ 594 |

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SINGAPORE $198 · $211 · $215

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HONGKONG | $85 | HONOLULU | $550 |
| BANGKOK | $170 | SYDNEY | $450 |
| SINGAPORE | $205 | NEW YORK | $650 |
| VANCOUVER | $610 | NAGOYA | $430 |
| OSAKA | $205 | TAIPEI | $268 |
| TOKYO | $405 | SEOUL | $435 |
| LAX / SFO | $530 | TORONTO | $600 |
| LAX (3 months) | $515 | DUBAI | $435 |
| LONDON | $700 | NEWARK | $650 |
| | | EUROPE | $700 |

| 2 NITES HONGKONG 1 NITE SHENZHEN | HONGKONG FREE & EASY |
|---|---|
| $128 | $155 |
| HONGKONG DISNEYLAND | 1 NITE HKG 1 NITE SZX 1 NITE DISNEY HOLLYWOOD |
| $180 | $245 |

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PROMO PACKAGES

HONGKONG + SHENZHEN $95
BANGKOK $215
KUALA LUMPUR $168 + GENTING $198 · + BANGKOK $278 · + SINGAPORE $328
SINGAPORE $252 · + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA $249
USA+CANADA EASTCOAST HIGHLIGHTS $1,532
BEIJING $379 · GUAM $330 · SEOUL $355
KOTA KINABALU $199 · WEST COAST EXPRESS $1,594

**COLORS TRAVEL & TOURS**

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**PACKAGE PROMO**

EUROPE PKG $ 2,470 / HOLYLAND PKG $ 1,970

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HONGKONG & SHENZHEN PACKAGE | $ 90 | JAKARTA Pkg | $ 381 |
| HONGKONG FREE & EASY | $ 160 | BALI Pkg | $ 365 |
| BANGKOK PACKAGE | $ 209 | SAIGON Pkg | $ 205 |
| BANGKOK + PATTAYA PACKAGE | $ 207 | MACAU Pkg | $ 199 |
| SINGAPORE PACKAGE | $ 195 | SHANGHAI Pkg | $ 325 |
| SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA | $ 240 | BEIJING Pkg | $ 345 |
| SINGAPORE + KUALA LUMPUR PACKAGE | $ 340 | BEIJING + SHANGHAI | $ 720 |
| KUALA LUMPUR PACKAGE | $ 325 | GUAM Pkg | $ 380 |
| KUALA LUMPUR + GENTING HIGHLAND | $ 370 | SAIPAN Pkg | $ 450 |
| KUALA LUMPUR + [illegible] HIGHLAND | $ 371 | PALAU Pkg | $ 470 |
| | | SYDNEY Pkg | $ 620 |

| INT'L TICKETS | | DOMESTIC PKG | |
|---|---|---|---|
| HONGKONG | $ 85 | PUERTO GALERA | P 3,500 |
| BANGKOK | $ 188 | BORACAY | P 3,765 |
| SINGAPORE | $ 120 | PALAWAN | P 3,665 |
| JAKARTA | $ 315 | CEBU | P 3,165 |
| BALI | $ 335 | BOHOL | P 4,665 |
| SAIGON | $ 220 | BACOLOD | P 3,765 |
| SHANGHAI | $ 262 | ILOILO | P 3,465 |
| BEIJING | $ 320 | CAGAYAN DE ORO | P 5,265 |
| NAGOYA | $ 340 | DAVAO | P 4,265 |
| TOKYO | $ 420 | | |
| SEOUL | $ 340 | | |
| AUSTRALIA | $ 438 | | |
| NEW ZEALAND | $ 470 | | |
| GUAM | $ 319 | | |
| PALAU | $ 356 | | |
| HONOLULU | $ 530 | | |
| WEST COAST | $ 518 | | |
| EAST COAST | $ 628 | | |
| VANCOUVER | $ 740 | | |
| TORONTO | $ 8[illegible] | | |
| EUROPE | $ 710 | | |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Disneyland Day Tour Family Package (3D) | 308 | Disneyland Overnight Family Package (3D) | 332 |
| Disneyland Day Tour Family Package (4D) | 325 | Disneyland Overnight Family Package (4D) | 349 |

| 3D SHOP HONG KONG | 3D HONG KONG NCLEX |
|---|---|
| $260 | $284 |
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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4N Shanghai [Compulsory Tour] | 169 | 4D Shenzhen w/ HKG & SZX Tour | 109 |
| 3D Singapore | 278 | 1N Macau 2N Shenzhen | 139 |
| 2N Shanghai 2N Beijing | 299 | 3D Bangkok | 199 |

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PACKAGES!

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | 4[illegible] | SYDNEY | 562 |
| SINGAPORE | 285 | MELBOURNE | 60[illegible] |
| BANGKOK | 252 | GOLDCOAST | [illegible] |
| HONGKONG | 274 | BRISBANE | 606 |
| SIEM REAP | 473 | CAIRNS | 615 |
| BALI | 475 | ADELAIDE | 665 |
| SAIGON | 28[illegible] | | |

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FARES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SEOUL | $400 | GUAM | $485 |
| SINGAPORE | 205 | SFO/LAX | 570 |
| BANGKOK | 195 | SEATTLE | 570 |
| JAKARTA | 285 | HONOLULU | 570 |
| HONGKONG | 205 | ATL/WAS | 1,000 |
| SAIGON | 210 | NEWARK | 1,020 |
| SIEM REAP | 395 | VANCOUVER | 820 |
| KUALA LUMPUR | 305 | [illegible] | 1,120 |
| XIAMEN | 230 | [illegible] | 1,040 |
| BEIJING | 335 | SHANGHAI | 281 |
| NARITA | 415 | PAR AMS ROM | 740 |
| OSAKA | 380 | LONDON | 720 |
| NAGOYA | 335 | SYD MEL | 420 |

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**China Panorama**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| B1 | Beijing 3 - 4 Days | |
| B2-3 | Beijing, Tianjin, Chengde, Qinhuangdao 5 - 6 Days | Tues, Thur, Sun |
| C1B-6 | Beijing, Shanghai 6 Days | |
| C1B6T | Beijing w/express train to Shanghai 6 Days | |
| H1 | Shanghai 3 - 4 Days | Tues, Thur, Fri, Sun |
| H2-3 | Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou 4 - 6 Days | |
| C1A | Beijing, Xian, Guilin 6 - 8 Days | Tuesday |
| C1B | Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 8 Days | Tuesday, Sunday |
| C1C | Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 10 Days | Tuesday, Sunday |
| G | Guangzhou (Canton), Foshan, Zhaoqing 3 - 5 Days | Friday |
| M | Xiamen, Quanzhou, Fuzhou 3 - 5 Days | Friday |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A1 | Yantze River (Three Gorges) Cruise Tour<br>New Century Cruise Deluxe 5 Star<br>· Century Star<br>· Viking Century Sky<br>· Viking Century Sun (conjunction tour available) | C5 | East China 6 - 8 Days |
| | | C6 | Northeast China 8 - 9 Days |
| | | C7 | Central China Cultural Tour 8 - 10 Days |
| C3 | Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Shenzhen 3 - 5 Days | C8 | Jiuzhaigou National Park 6 - 10 Days |
| | Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan Is. 5 - 8 Days | C9 | Zhangjiajie National Forest Park 5 - 8 Days |
| C4 | Southwest China Scenic Tour 6 - 10 Days | C10 | Silk Road, Tibet, Inner Mongolia 8 - 10 Days |

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INTERNATIONAL PACKAGES
2 NITES HONGKONG / 2 NITES SHENZHEN / 2 NITES MACAU $178
2 Nites Hongkong 2 nites Shenzen $100
HONGKONG NCLEX $177
HONGKONG + [illegible] $175

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| BANGKOK | BLOCKING | $221 | |
| | w/ PATTAYA | $288 | |
| | FREE & EASY | $210 | |
| SINGAPORE | FREE & EASY | $244 | |
| | w/ MAL - INDO | $314 | |
| | w/ MALAYSIA | $378 | |
| KUALA LUMPUR | FREE & EASY | $269 | |
| | Genting Highlands | $330 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Disneyland FREE & EASY | $180 |
| BRUNEI | $293 |
| SAIGON | $297 |
| SHANGHAI | $299 |
| JAKARTA | $373 |
| BEIJING | $407 |
| SEOUL | $530 |

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**Singapore $196**

| | |
|---|---|
| Hongkong-Shenzen | $89 |
| Hongkong-Shenzen + Disneyland Day Tour | 139 |
| Shenzhen-Zhuhai-Macau | 199 |
| Singapore-Malaysia-Indonesia | 261 |
| 8D7N Shenzhen-Beijing-Shanghai | 299 |
| Hongkong + Disneyland Overnight | 319 |
| 5D4N Shenzhen-Beijing-Shanghai Fullboard | 369 |
| 8D7N Hongkong-Shenzhen-Beijing-Shanghai + Disneyland Day Tour | 399 |
| 8D7N Shenzhen-Beijing-Shanghai-Xian | 598 |

TICKETS ONLY

| | |
|---|---|
| HONGKONG | $80 |
| BANGKOK | 170 |
| SINGAPORE | 203 |
| XIAMEN | 215 |
| TAIPEI | 225 |
| SAIGON | 280 |
| SHANGHAI | 285 |
| SEOUL | 315 |
| JAPAN | 315 |
| AUSTRALIA | 425 |
| LAX / SFO | 535 |
| EUROPE | 620 |
| NEWYORK | 630 |
| VANCOUVER | 645 |

Bangkok $190 · Hongkong $145

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| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| HONGKONG +SHENZHEN $99 | KOTA KINABALU $99 | 2N HKG +1N SZN $129 | HKG+SZN +DISNEY $159 | MACAU +HKG+SZN $149 |
| GUANGZHOU FULLBOARD $239 | MACAU $209 | BANGKOK $215 | BANGKOK+ PATTAYA $285 | KUALA LUMPUR $168 |
| KUALA+ GENTING $198 | KUALA+ SINGAPORE $278 | SINGAPORE $185 | SINGAPORE+ MALAY+IND $285 | SAIGON $305 |
| GUAM $358 | SHANGHAI $159 | SHANGHAI + BEIJING $289 | SHANGHAI + NANJING $259 | SEOUL $545 |
| BEIJING $418 | AUSTRALIA $618 | WEST COAST TOUR $448 | EAST COAST TOUR $478 | EUROPE $2438 |

| LOCAL TOURS | | BUDGET FARES | |
|---|---|---|---|
| SUBIC (SAFARI TOUR) | P990 | LAX/SFO/SEA | $539 |
| CORREGIDOR | P1690 | JFK/WAS/ORLANDO | $629 |
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# Oil tanker sinks off Guimaras, spills oil

AN OIL TANKER CARrying two million liters of bunker oil sank in rough seas off Guimaras Island, causing a "massive" oil spill that has reached the southern and eastern shorelines of the sland,the Philippine Coast Guard said Sunday.

Local fishermen, passing ships and a coast guard helicopter managed to rescue 16 of the 18 crew of the 998-ton Motor Tanker Solar I. But two remain missing.

The M/T Solar I left Lamao, Bataan on Wednesday and was headed for Zamboanga when it sank on Friday afternoon.

The PCG said the oil tanker encountered big waves while passing Guimaras Strait. It began taking on water and tilted on its right side.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme said the actual amount of bunker fuel that was spilled has yet to be determined.

The oil spill could affect the livelihood of residents of Guimaras and other nearby provinces. Guimaras is known for its mangoes, which are exported to countries like Australia and the United States.

Coyme said the PCG would put up an oil spill boom today to contain the spread of the oil. *By Leila B. Salaverria*

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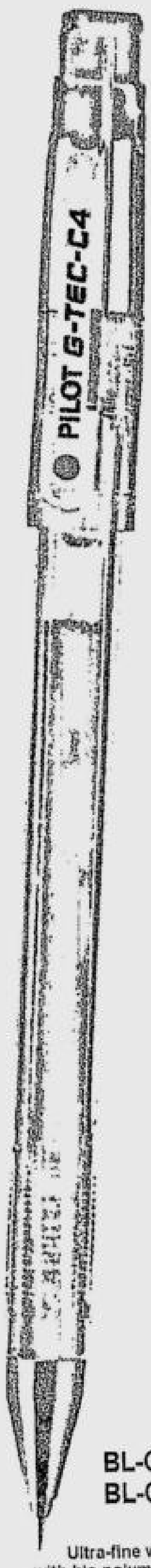

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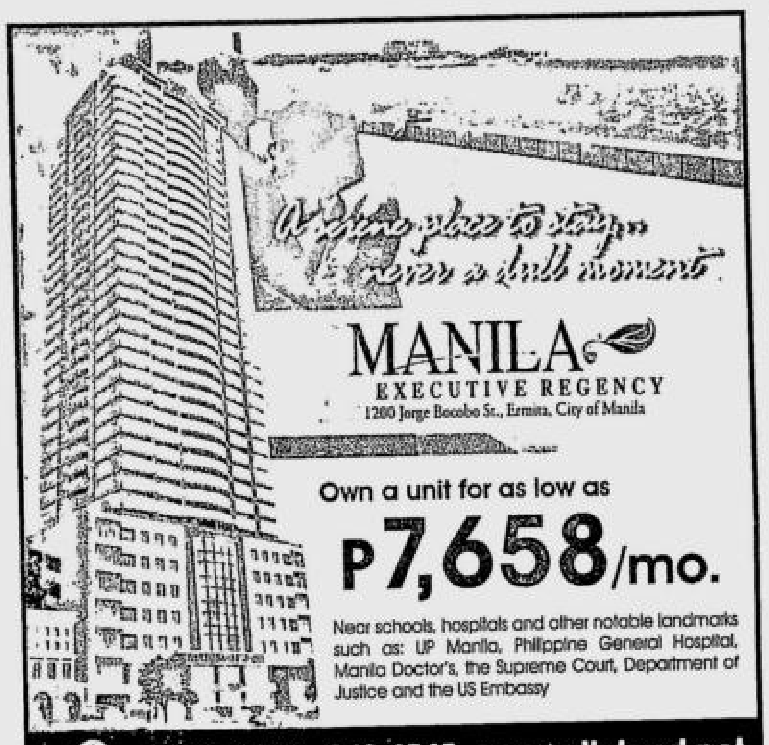

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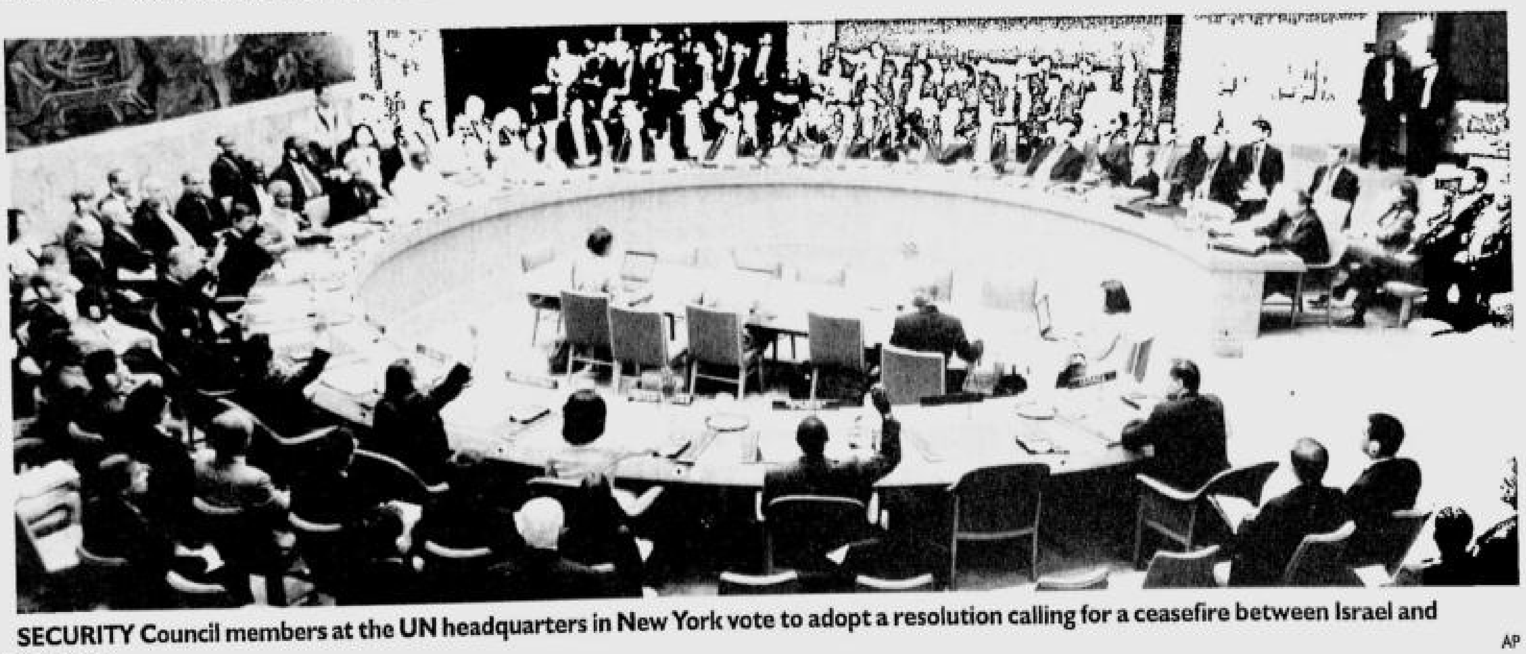

SECURITY Council members at the UN headquarters in New York vote to adopt a resolution calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon. AP

# Ceasefire won't stop evacuation

From page A1

what the cost and the evolving situation may be," she said. "I shall spare no effort to keep every Filipino safe and sound until they are brought back home or to safe sanctuary elsewhere."

Ms Arroyo, however, directed Philippine officials to continue implementing her Aug. 2 directive for the mandatory repatriation of all OFWs in Lebanon. She promised to help the returnees find new jobs.

### 4,639 repatriated so far

A majority of the Filipinos in Lebanon work as domestic helpers, and some have refused to leave for fear they would not earn as much in the Philippines, which has a high unemployment rate.

Of the estimated 36,000 OFWs in Lebanon, 4,639 had been repatriated by the Philippine government and the Geneva-based International Organization for Migration as of Saturday.

Yesterday, Conejos said the crisis team would continue and even step up implementation of Ms Arroyo's order.

"We should take this opportunity, this chance to go to the previously inaccessible areas and extricate our OFWs from there," Conejos told dzBB radio station. "We are hopeful, in fact, we should all pray that this ceasefire will hold firm on the ground but we know that a ceasefire is very fragile."

"Ceasefires are always violated, there are flareups, so now that there is still a chance, let's leave now," Conejos said.

"We should take advantage of the lull to reach out to more OFWs," he said in a phone interview. He said the government was not certain that the truce would hold, considering "the very deep-seated conflict" there.

Conejos expressed apprehension that most Filipinos were not heeding the call for their repatriation.

### Alternate route

He also disclosed that Israeli air strikes late Saturday had struck the alternate land route now being used by the crisis team to evacuate OFWs from Lebanon to Syria.

But the team led by special envoy to the Middle East Roy Cimatu checked the area immediately and found out that the route was not heavily damaged and was still passable, Conejos said. This was the route that the latest batch of 450 OFW returnees was taking yesterday.

The Department of Foreign Affairs also said it was taking full advantage of the expected lull in the war in the Middle East following the UN approval of the resolution calling for a "full cessation of hostilities" in Lebanon.

"It was the order of President Arroyo to evacuate all Filipinos out of Lebanon so we will continue with the evacuation efforts," Gilbert Asuque, foreign affairs spokesperson, said in a phone interview.

### Search in Tyre, Sidon

Philippine diplomats in Lebanon and Syria were instructed to "immediately dispatch a team to search for, and evacuate any Filipino who may have been left behind in Tyre, Sidon, and other parts of southern Lebanon," the DFA said in a statement yesterday.

The diplomats were also directed to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire, Conejos said.

The diplomats overseeing the evacuation in Lebanon are Cimatu, head of the Philippine Middle East Preparedness Committee (PMEPC), and Philippine Ambassador to Lebanon Al Francis Bichara.

The repatriation of the OFWs from Syria to the Philippines is supervised by Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis.

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# Peace team traces ...

From page A1

from the Dabboussiyeh border crossing, we came across the ruins of a bridge hit by Israeli warplanes just the day before. Villagers told us 12 people were killed and 10 wounded—all civilians.

Twenty minutes later, at a place called Abu Shamra, we came across the remains of a gasoline station and bridge, the targets of an Israeli air strike just eight hours earlier.

"Now, what was the military logic behind that?" asked Seema Mustafa, an Indian journalist with our international peace delegation. It is a question shared by the Lebanese who told us what happened.

At three other places—Matfoun, Halat and near the famous Casino du Lebanon at Jumieh—we had to take detours around bridges and vehicles destroyed by Israeli attacks. These are sites very far from the front in southern Lebanon, in a part of the country where Hezbollah, the movement Israel is fighting, has very little presence.

These very fresh instances of destruction brought home to us one of the key features of the Israeli offensive: It has deliberately targeted nonmilitary infrastructure to raise the costs of the war for the civilian population.

With evidence of Israel's anti-civilian strategy fresh in our minds, we were not surprised when we heard, after arriving in Beirut, about the strafing of a convoy of civilians leaving the town of Marieyoun in the south.

On Friday, several hundred cars left the town, after negotiations between the Israelis and the nonbelligerent Lebanese Army. As it snaked up north, it came under fire repeatedly from Israeli planes with at least six people killed and many others wounded.

### Redrafting rules of war

What was the reason for violating the agreement? The Israeli excuses ranged from "it was a mistake" to "suspicion that the convoy was carrying Hezbollah guerrillas."

Nahla Chahal, one of the coordinators of international civil society delegations to Lebanon, told us: "The deliberate attacks on civilians are a new element in Israel's redrafting of the rules of war. It's nothing less than a war crime."

Herbert Docena, one of the members of our delegation who spent time in occupied Iraq, said, "What is different between Iraq and here is that in Iraq, the US does seem to have a modicum of concern about international public opinion. Here, the Israelis simply don't care about public opinion. So it's more dangerous."

The delegation was told at a briefing on the evening of our arrival by our Lebanese hosts that the contrast between the war strategies of the Israelis and the Hezbollah was evident in the nature of the casualties.

Most of the more than 1,000 Lebanese killed by Israeli forces were civilians, while most of the more than 100 Israelis who died in the war so far were soldiers.

There was, in fact, a strong sense of pride in the Hezbollah's military performance that was evident as we were briefed that evening by representatives of several of Lebanon's political parties, including the right-wing Free Lebanon Movement led by Gen. Michel Aoun, the centrist Third Force, the Lebanese Communist Party, and the Hezbollah itself.

The war has lasted for 31 days, more than any of the previous Arab-Israeli wars, according to Dr. Issam Naaman of the Third Force. "At this point, it is clear that Israel has lost the war on the ground and is trying to get at the diplomatic front, with the support of the United States, what it has lost on the military side," he said.

### A new Nasser?

The destruction of 34 Israeli Merkava tanks on Friday's fighting, the death of 19 Israeli soldiers—the highest so far in this monthlong war—and the downing of an Israeli helicopter were cited as proof not only of a victory by the Hezbollah, around whom 87 percent of the Lebanese people, according to the polls, now seemed to have gotten behind in its resistance to Israel.

Equally important, it became clear to us at the briefing that for Arabs, the successful resistance of a few hundred well-motivated and well-trained Hezbollah guerrillas has ended the era of Arab humiliation by Israel's military might.

"It's really quite interesting and exciting," commented Seema Mustafa, the Indian journalist, "the way the Arab Street has come behind Hassan Nasrallah."

Indeed, the man whom one Hezbollah representative at the briefing fondly referred to as "our baby-faced" leader was achieving a status once reserved for Gamal Abdel Nasser, the Egyptian leader.

This point was brought home to me by Taufik, the driver who ferried us from Damascus to Beirut, who said as he steered us through the detour around one of the bombed bridges earlier in the day: "I belong to no party except the one that can bring food to my family. But I really like this man Nasrallah. He has brought pride to all of us Lebanese."

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## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 14, 2006
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Maximilian Mary Kobe

1st Reading: Ezk 1:2-5, 24-28
Gospel: Matthew 17:22-27

While Jesus was in Galilee with the Twelve, he said to them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands, and they will kill him. But he will rise on the third day." The Twelve were deeply grieved.

On returning to Capernaum, the Temple tax collectors came to Peter and asked him, "Does your master pay the temple tax?" He answered, "Certainly."

Peter then entered the house, but immediately Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Simon? Who pay taxes or tributes to the kings of the earth: their sons or the other people?" Peter replied, "The others." And Jesus told him, "The sons, then, are tax-free. But so as not to offend these people, go to the sea, throw in a hook and open the mouth of the first fish you catch. You will find a coin in it, take it and let it pay for you and for me."

**Commentary**

*Ezekiel sees four figures of incredible power, a throne and someone like a man. He describes it as "the vision of the likeness of the glory of the Lord." Jesus is the human image of God, and the face of the Son of Man, rejected, crucified and maimed is also this vision of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. The disciples are overwhelmed with grief and reject the vision Jesus presents them.*

*And the collectors of the temple tax (in collusion with Rome) ask Peter if Jesus pays the tax. He says yes. And Jesus tries to teach Peter (and us) that it is not necessary to pay the tax, only do it so as not to "disedify" people. In Matthew the tax is paid. Who are we afraid of "disedifying?" A nation or God?*

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# FVR wants Apec to tackle security concerns

**By Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Inquirer Visayas*

LAPULAPU CITY—FORMER PRESIDENT Fidel V. Ramos is urging the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation to expand its role in the region to include security concerns.

Speaking at the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) meeting yesterday at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort, Ramos said that Apec should include political and security concerns, instead of just economic and finance issues.

"I do not think Apec should continue to be as offhand or ad hoc as it has been, discussing political and security issues only for a particular purpose and only as a side event in a trade and investment show. If there is a meeting of the Apec ministers responsible for trade and an Apec finance ministers meeting, why can not there be also an Apec foreign ministers meeting?" he told Abac delegates.

On the issue of three Chinese member-economies, Ramos suggested that Apec members that are not sovereign states should be excluded or given observer status during Apec's discussions on politics and security.

"I realize that this is an imperfect response to our delicate situation here in the Asia Pacific. But among imperfect alternative responses, this to me is the most acceptable one. Our collective responsibility to the peace and stability of our Asia Pacific region demands no less," he said.

Apec, according to Ramos, has a key role to play in creating a "Pax Asia Pacifica" to take the place of Pax Americana, which has enforced stability in the Asia-Pacific region for decades.

"Is it now high time that we move from Asia Pacific economic cooperation to Asia Pacific political, economic and security cooperation?" he asked the delegates.

Ramos said he was not proposing that Apec become a forum for security cooperation because this was not its purpose.

The trade ministers of Apec member economies, he said, would continue to discuss trade matters.

"In fact, Apec's capability to respond to economic issues would be strengthened because the finance minister's process will be more tightly integrated with the issues of trade and commerce," Ramos said.

He noted Apec's involvement in security concerns through the Secure Trade Area in the Apec Region (STAR) initiative set up in October 2002 and the recently organized anti-terrorism task force.

"What I am saying is that as a forum for economic cooperation, Apec cannot escape taking on security and political issues as an integral part of its agenda. And because of this necessity, it has a role to play in realizing the enduring Asia Pacific peace all its members desire," Ramos said.

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# Oil firms hike LPG prices anew

**By Abigail L. Ho**

FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS MONTH, OIL firms raised liquefied petroleum gas prices by 56 centavos per kg due to the increase in the international contract price of LPG in August.

First to hike prices were oil refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. at 12:01 a.m. yesterday, followed by Chevron Philippines Inc. at 6 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp. implemented the same price adjustment at 12:01 a.m. today.

They did not adjust prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the international contract price of LPG jumped by $45 per metric ton this month to $547 per metric ton from $502 per metric ton in July.

The international contract price of LPG peaked in February at $625.50 per metric ton.

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# Jinggoy confident of their acquittal

OPPOSITION SEN. Jinggoy Estrada is confident that he and his father, deposed President Joseph Estrada, will be acquitted by the Sandiganbayan special division trying them for plunder before the year ends.

The younger Estrada made the statement after his father's lawyers—Jose Flaminiano and Rene Saguisag—told the court last week that they would no longer present any more witnesses after five and a half years of continuous trial.

The defense has presented more than 80 witnesses in Estrada's defense since 2004.

"I am confident that my father, myself and Atty. Edward Serapio will be acquitted before the year ends," the senator said at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum over the weekend.

The senator and Serapio, a former presidential legal counsel for Estrada, are the deposed leader's co-accused in the plunder charges that stemmed from their alleged involvement in the illegal numbers game "jueteng" and kickbacks from Ilocos Sur's excise tax proceeds.

"The prosecution terminated its cross-examination of President Estrada without destroying his testimony. Sooner or later, we will all be acquitted," Estrada told reporters.

It is only a matter of time before the defense rests its case in defense of the former President, his son and his lawyer.

Members of the prosecution panel, on the other hand, have decided not to cross-examine the former leader. *Norman Bordadora*

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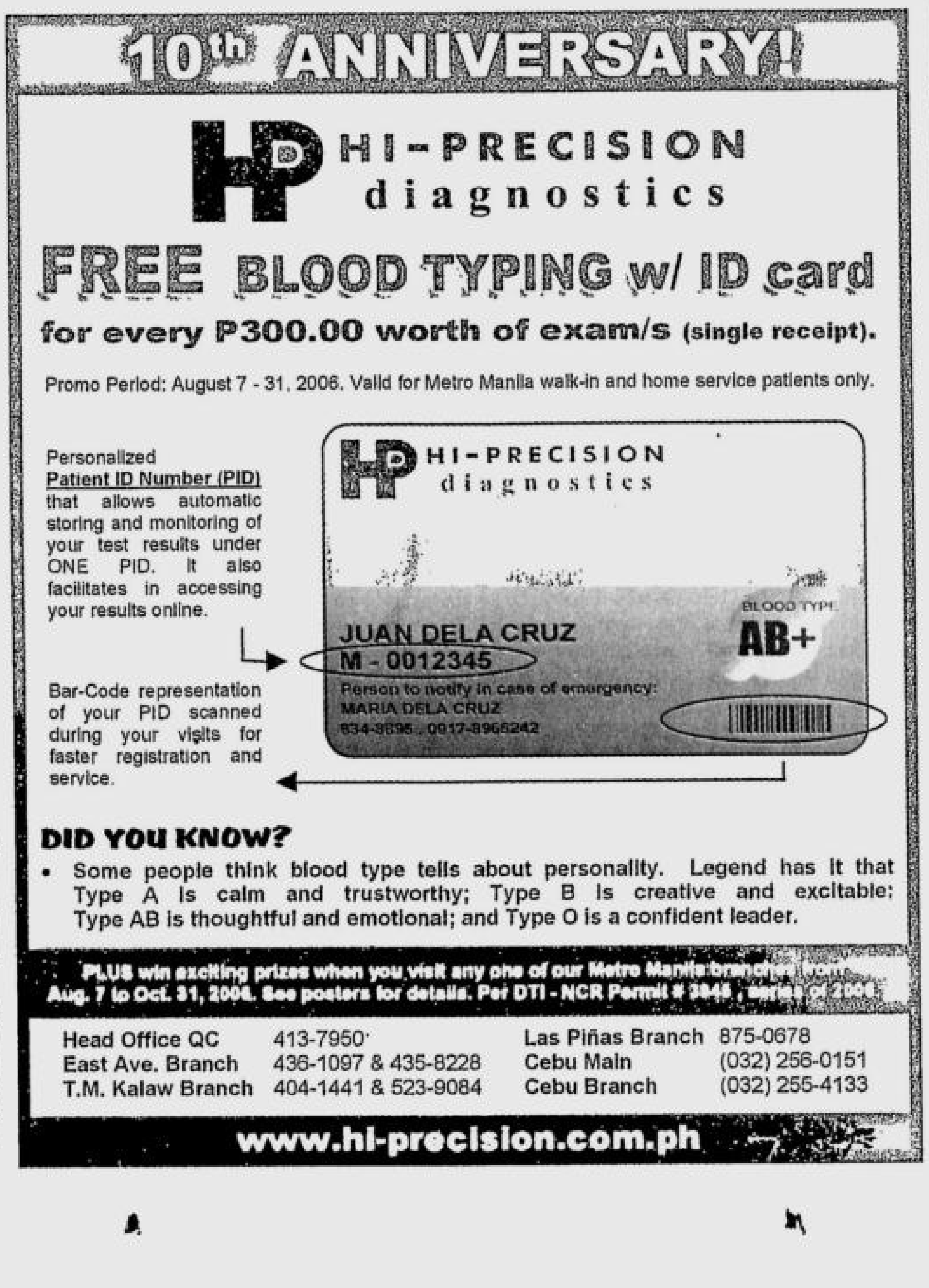

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# OPINION

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## Cowardly, criminal

**EDITORIAL**

THE NEW PEOPLE'S ARMY HAS AGAIN DONE A terrible thing. As it did during the calamitous last weeks of 2004, the NPA has used another natural disaster as a cover to attack soldiers engaged in rescue or recovery efforts. This is an outrage, and we join many others in condemning it.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday, the NPA launched four attacks on Army positions; three of those attacks took place in Bicol, at a time when the entire region, including the military personnel assigned in the area, worried greatly about the imminent eruption of Mt. Mayon.

The first clash (according to the chronology provided by the official military spokesperson) took place at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, when the base of the Army's 901st Brigade in Daraga, Albay was attacked by a large group of communist insurgents. Five soldiers were wounded in the 10-minute firefight.

The second occurred before 10 p.m. that same night, in Uson, Masbate. No casualties were reported on either side.

The third attack came less than three hours later, at about 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday; some 40 rebels laid siege to a detachment of the 22nd Infantry Battalion in San Vicente, Camarines Sur. The 30-minute encounter left one soldier dead and another wounded.

The fourth attack followed at about 2 a.m., in San Marcelino, Isabela. The NPA engaged the 45th Infantry Battalion; two rebels and a soldier perished in the fighting.

Despite the timing of the fourth encounter, it seems likely that only the first three were in fact coordinated. They all took place in the same area command, under the same cover of night—and, if the AFP is right, all for the same reason: the NPA wanted to take advantage of an Army preoccupied with evacuation duties in the Mayon volcano area.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, whose brief as chief of the AFP's public information office allows him to speak on behalf of the entire military, offered a theory. "Since most of our troops are now focused in Mayon, they (the communist insurgents) believe that our detachments are left unmanned or left unprotected. But we would like to state that despite [the fact that] most of our men are focused in Mayon, we are ready to repel them and conduct counterattack." In his haste to project a posture of readiness and resolve, the good colonel is mixing or, rather, diluting, his messages. Charges of treachery lose their sting, when one must bend backwards to account for the element of surprise. (Two dead and six wounded seems too high a price to pay for such "ready to repel" posture.) Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a former general, was more sanguine. "That's part of the hazards of the trade," he said. And even if Mayon had already erupted, he said, it was still the soldier's duty to expect the worst from the enemy.

Initially, the NPA tried to deny that the attacks took place, or that they were targeted at soldiers assigned to evacuation duty. [The AFP is needed not only to help transport the 30,000 or so villagers out of what the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology calls the permanent and the extended danger zones; it is also needed to stop villagers in evacuation centers from returning prematurely.] Two days after the news reports came out, however, the NPA gave what amounted to a virtual confirmation. Spokesperson Gregorio Rosal issued very public instructions to all units in the area **not** to attack troops on Mayon duty.

Were the coordinated attacks on the night of Aug. 8 and the early morning of Aug. 9 merely a military misjudgment on the part of the NPA? Was it, even more simply, a public relations disaster, a blunder in the war of perceptions? From what we know of the cast, the heft and shape of ideologically driven organizations, we tend to the view that the attacks were in fact unavoidable; they were the result of the NPA's own inexorable logic.

The notion that the attacks would end up harming the very people the NPA claimed to serve, by undermining the evacuation efforts that were designed to bring them out of harm's way, may not have even been a factor in the decision-making at all. The only important consideration was that there was a battlefield advantage to be seized.

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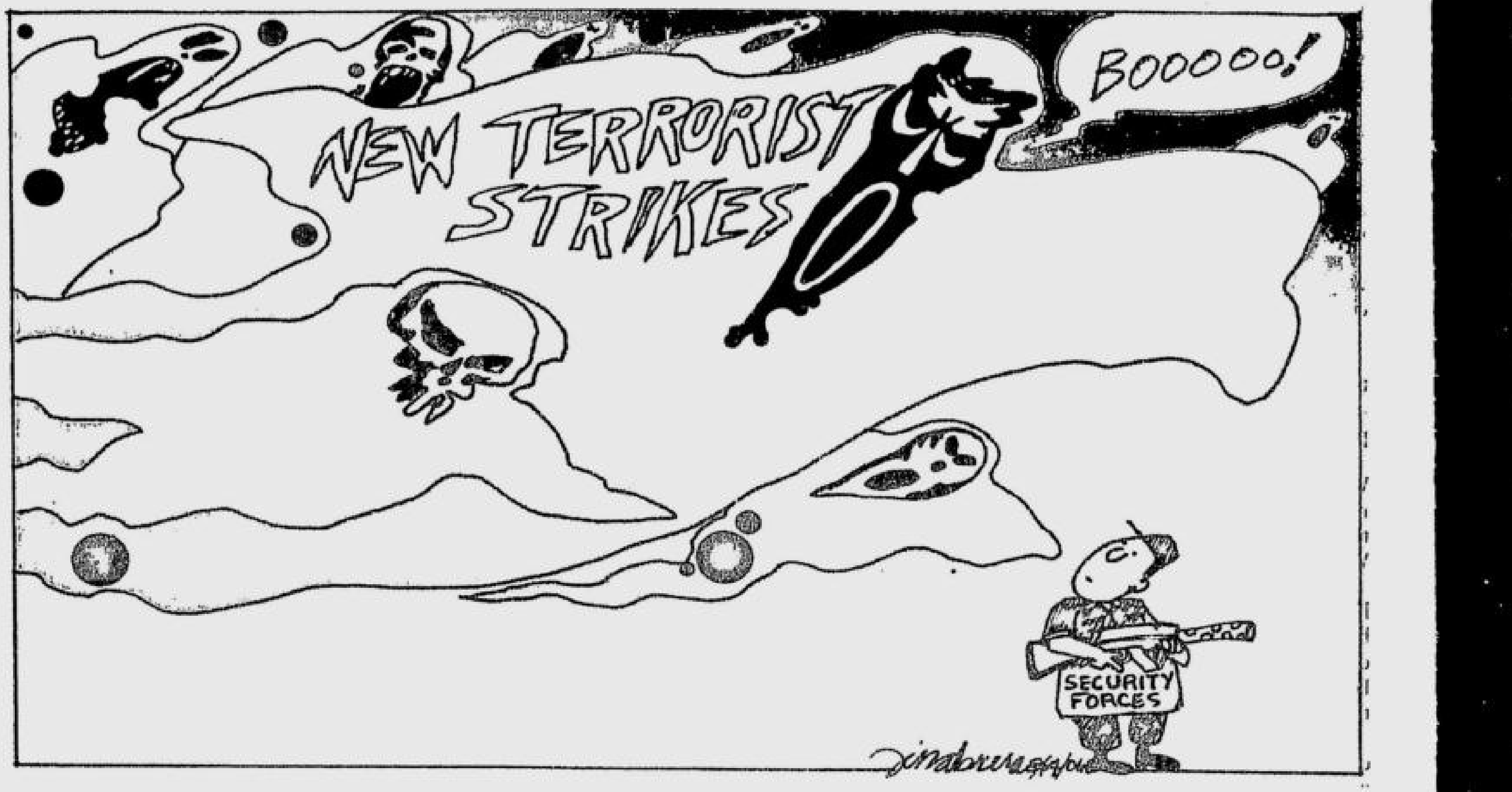

## Notorious Malaysian firm at it again

### AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

REMEMBER RANHILL BERHAD, THE PARTNER of YNN Pacific in the aborted purchase of the Masinloc Power Plant in Zambales? It's still around, trying to participate in LRT and MRT projects, as well as in the bulk water projects (worth hundreds of millions of dollars) of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). It was also reported to have partnered with another Filipino corporation, Phil-Mal Petroenergy Corp. and will soon be awarded a service contract for oil and gas exploration in the Sulu Sea basin.

Ranhill Berhad was the second backer of YNN, the winning bidder of the Masinloc power plant. It was supposed to pay the down payment for the plant, but it did not come across with the money until the deadline for the payment expired. Ranhill had asked for a signed supply contract with Meralco as a condition for its honoring its commitment on the down payment. But a supply contract is not included in the rules of the bidding committee of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), the government corporation in charge of privatizing Napocor's assets. (By the way, have PSALM officials returned the P10 million they awarded themselves as bonus for the "successful" sale of Masinloc, which turned out to be not just a failure but a monumental fiasco?)

Well, Ranhill is at it again, and is still getting favorable support not only from the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission, but also from the MWSS. The MWSS is delaying the prequalification stage of a build-operate-transfer project that is meant to supply 300 million liters per day (300 MLD) because Ranhill still lacks the requirements to prequalify. Proponents must at least be 60-percent owned by Filipinos and at most 40-percent owned by foreigners; they also must meet a minimum combined net worth. Ranhill and its partner have not met these requirements.

The project has six proponents. New Kanlaon Consortium and Sierra Madre Consortium have already prequalified. Two have failed, and the last two—Ranhill and Kintech—"are under prolonged consideration" despite their problems in meeting major requirements. The MWSS is probably waiting for Ranhill to catch up.

But the project is already much delayed. If not completed soon, the delay will result in a water shortage by 2008. The original deadline for the submission of prequalification requirements was in June 2004. It was moved to January 2005 and then again to October 2005. The prequalification documents were finally opened on Nov. 24, 2005.

The MWSS Technical Working Group was supposed to complete the evaluation of the documents within two weeks. Likewise, the Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) was supposed to take only two weeks to review and approve the results of the evaluation. It is now August 2006 but we have yet to see the results of the prequalification evaluation.

Because of these delays, this project at the earliest can only be bid out and awarded in 2007, constructed from 2008 to 2010, and made operational in 2011, at which time a severe water shortage shall have set in. To avoid a shortage, the MWSS must bid out and award this project within the year.

* * *

**Somebody up there tried to pressure the legal counsel of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) to reverse his legal opinion on the takeover of the Poro Point seaport from its legal operator, the Poro Point International Corp. (PPIC), which has a valid 25-year contract with the government.**

**A memorandum by BCDA legal counsel Angel Casanova to BCDA president Narciso Abaya has surfaced, revealing that a former BCDA official had pressured the former to reverse a legal study done by the BCDA, which concluded that there is no legal basis to terminate the current operator's contract.**

**In a 2004 memorandum, Casanova told Abaya and the BCDA board that former Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) head Juanito Antonio told him to reverse the BCDA stand on the legality of the private operator's contract.**

**"On a number of occasions, Attorney Antonio either called up or personally visited me in my office to persuade and convince me to reverse the legal study made by BCDA regarding the BHI Contract, allegedly due to an instruction from an influential person," Casanova wrote.**

**"I refused in all these instances not because of any considerations, but for lack of strong legal foundation to reverse our previous findings," he added.**

**PPMC is a BCDA subsidiary. Antonio has been replaced by lawyer Felix Singson Racadio as head of that agency.**

**Who is exerting the pressure? Somebody who must be very powerful, such that even President Macapagal-Arroyo is timid in stopping the anarchy in Poro Point—in spite of appeals from the business community, including a group of German investors, for her to intervene and prevent the continued paralyzation of the port's operations. But what if it is the President herself exerting the pressure?**

**Because of the government takeover of Terminal 3 from Piatco and its German partner, the nullification of the Mega-Pacific contract and, now, the forcible takeover of the Poro Point port, there is a growing perception in the international community that "laws are no longer respected in government's dealings with businessmen."**

* * *

Another growing perception is that this is a conspiracy among former military men; PMAers all. The takeover was facilitated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), and the BCDA. The DENR is headed by Gen. Angelo Reyes, the DOTC by former PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza, and the BCDA by Abaya, also a retired general. Like good soldiers, they may be obeying orders from superior officials.

## State of the nation: Evacuation

### THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

BARELY HAD THE SPIT DRIED ON GMA'S mouth (after she delivered her State of the Nation Address) when several things happened to reveal the true state of the nation. The state of the nation is not the Enchanted Kingdom. The state of the nation is: Evacuation.

Evacuation is what's happening to the OFWs in Lebanon, for the most part maids, many of whom are back home richer only in experience—of the harrowing kind. They are impoverished otherwise, having managed to scramble to safety only by the skin of their teeth, bringing home only the *pasalubong* of being alive. My heart went out to that mother who was sobbing over her daughter, her youngest, who was being wheeled out of the airport, the girl's body broken and bruised after leaping out of a building to escape a master who refused to let her go. The mother was thankful her daughter had at least come home breathing, and kept vowing that, money or no money, she wasn't ever going to let her go back abroad. I wondered how long her vow would hold.

Evacuation is what's happening in Albay in the areas around Mayon Volcano. Mayon is threatening to blow its top once more, thick smoke billowing out of its crater of late, the roiling magma underneath pushing upward demanding to be released. Many folk have already packed up their belongings and gone to evacuation centers. Some others refuse to go. As one woman—who was coolly pedaling her sewing machine while all the fuss was going on around her—put it, why should she? They were already used to Mayon threatening to blow. If worst comes to worst, they could always run away. They were confident they could outrun Mayon's fury. It was the story of their life: outrunning life's volcanic explosions.

It's not altogether hard to understand the reticence to go. It's precious little choice dying instantaneously from molten fire or in slow-motion from losing one's livelihood. As far as I know, few people in this country really die from being swallowed up by onrushing burning rock. The casualties pile up more from the effects of the volcanic explosions, as in Pampanga, when lahar and mudslides came to quite literally bury the hopes and dreams of thousands of farmers.

I remember that when natural disasters struck in great plenitude during Cory's time, folk began to whisper, "*Malas si* Cory." Life wasn't at all that hard at the time—certainly it wasn't the miserable thing it is today. What can you say now with disasters, natural and man-made, striking this country with even more wanton plenitude? *Bwisit si* Gloria?

And evacuation is what's happening to people of this country itself. To go by Pulse Asia's latest survey, 3 out of 10 Filipinos now want to evacuate from this country. Or specifically 32 percent, which is close to a third of the population wanting to leave the country. It was 1 out of 5 (19 percent) or close to a fifth of the population only a few years ago. The stated reason for this massive threatened evacuation was not unlike the unending war between Arabs and Jews and the impending explosion of Mayon Volcano. Most Filipinos felt threatened in their own country. They were fleeing for dear life, or wanted to.

Specifically, more than half of Filipinos no longer felt hopeful about their country. The number of Filipinos who still felt hopeful fell from 69 percent in July last year to only 49 percent this year. At the time Pulse Asia took this survey, the newspapers had carried the following headlines: the impeachment cases filed against GMA, including that of a bishop (Deogracias Iñiguez), GMA's declaration of "all-out war" against the NPA, the abolition of the death penalty, the probable filing of impeachment charges against Comelec commissioners, and the capture of six Magdalo officers.

Clearly, most Filipinos did not find the idea of GMA attempting to crush the communist and military rebellion a source of elation. They found it a source of dismay—or even more reason not to hope.

Misery the GMA government did not invent, but hopelessness it did, and does. The misery has been there for a long, long time. The sense that this country has no future, that the only way out is out, is new. Gaze at the plight of Filipinos today: being evacuated from Lebanon, being evacuated from Mayon, wanting to be evacuated from their own country. And we thought the Jews were the people condemned to wander the earth forever in search of a home!

I don't know though why more and more of us think the solution to the current hopelessness is to evacuate to foreign, or indeed hostile, shores. The solution in fact is so much simpler, less expensive and longer lasting. That is to remove the source of hopelessness. A people can have no hope when they are being led by someone they never gave their consent to. A country has no hope when it is being turned into a "killing fields" by someone whose crown sits uneasily on her head. A nation has no hope when honesty, justice and decency become crimes and lying, cheating and stealing become presidential virtues. Remove the source of those things and hope will gush from the heart of this land overnight, like oil being struck in the arid deserts of Arabia.

We Filipinos have always prided ourselves on our ability to come together and rise to heroic heights when confronted by a common threat. Our compatriots are threatened with mortar fire in Lebanon and we all come together to do our bit to help them. Our compatriots are threatened with volcanic fire in Albay and we all come together to do our bit for them. We are all threatened by hellfire right where we are, and all we can do is think, each man for himself the devil take the hindmost or last one to catch the boat to America?

Gaze at the state of the nation: Evacuation.

# A George Keenan war

### SOUNDING BOARD

*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

GEORGE KEENAN, OF COURSE, HAS LONG been dead. But the pounding Lebanon is getting from Israel is reminiscent of what Keenan said when he was the director of policy planning of the US State Department. He expressed his view thus in 1948: "Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity [US military-economic supremacy] .... To do so, we will have to dispense with all sentimentality and day-dreaming .... We should cease to talk about vague and ... unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of the living standards, and democratization. The day is not far off when we are going to have to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better."

Sad to say, there have been dark moments in the glorious history of America, moments which many Americans themselves wish will never happen again.

Several months ago, I watched the "The Fog of War," an award-winning documentary where former US Defense Secretary Robert McNamara was the main actor. It was a reminder of the horrors of World War II.

Early in the documentary, McNamara narrated how in 1962 the United States was within a hairbreadth away from nuclear war where one of the options was the complete annihilation of Cuba. Fortunately, diplomacy prevented it. But we need to recall horrors that had happened before.

Remember Dresden. In February 1945, Dresden, a defenseless German city, was scorched by military bombers, killing about a third of its inhabitants—possibly half a million innocent lives—within less than 14 hours. Southern Lebanon is turning out to be today's Dresden.

Remember Tokyo and other Japanese cities. Thousands of people perished under a rain of firebombs dropped by US bombers. This was even before Nagasaki and Hiroshima. When Hiroshima and Nagasaki's time came, 150,000 died instantly; and thousands more met a slow, horrible death from radiation.

The United States won the war. Japan surrendered. Germany was defeated. The military leaders of Germany and Japan were tried for war crimes. But McNamara himself observed that if the United States had lost the war, American leaders would have been tried for war crimes! Can this happen to the leaders of Israel?

Terrorism is a favorite topic especially after 9/11 where more than 3,000 innocent lives perished in a flash in New York. It was terrorism perpetrated by non-state agents. Terrorism is on center stage again after the discovery of the plot to bomb commercial airlines. We should not forget, however, that states can perpetrate more horrifying terror.

It happened even before World War II. In 1899, Filipinos fought American soldiers who were equipped with superior firepower. The death toll among Filipinos was enormous and some provinces had horror stories to tell. Samar, for instance, had a Gen. Jake Smith. A historian reports the testimony of a Marine major:

"The major said that General Smith instructed [a soldier] to kill and burn, and said that the more he killed and burned the better pleased he would be; that it was no time to take prisoners, and that he was to make Samar a howling wilderness.

"Major Waller asked General Smith to define the age limit for killing, and he replied 'Everything over ten.'"

Mark Twain commented: "We have pacified some thousands of the islanders and buried them; destroyed their fields; burned their villages, and turned their widows and orphans out-of-doors; furnished heartbreak by exile to some dozens of disagreeable patriots; subjugated the remaining ten millions by Benevolent Assimilation, which is the pious new name of the musket; we have acquired property in the three hundred concubines and other slaves of our business partner, the Sultan of Sulu, and hoisted our protecting flag over that swag.

"And so, by these Providences of God—and the phrase is the government's, not mine—we are a World Power."

Is terrorism just brutal, unthinking violence? "No. Experts agree that there is almost always a strategy behind terrorist actions. Whether it takes the form of bombings, shootings, hijackings, or assassinations, terrorism is neither random, spontaneous, nor blind; it is a deliberate use of violence against civilians for political or religious ends." But states can be the more dangerous terrorists.

With the uncovering of threats to air flights, the clamor for the passage of an anti-terror bill is mounting. Such bill has been slow in coming. Indeed, I must admit that terrorism is not an easy subject to handle. Hence, it is no surprise that legislators have been working on it ploddingly. The clamor for such a bill is in effect a plea for Congress to "declare war" on terrorism and wrestle with a slew of new challenges for which there are today no clear answers. This is a matter that must be handled most carefully especially because the law enforcement segment of our state has not been characterized by scrupulous adherence even only to the fundamental points of the law on human rights.

# The beauty and the blaze

### KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

*Carlos Isagani T. Zarate*

BEING CONFERRED THE COUNTRY'S ORDER of Lakandula—in the footsteps of 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman—might have been furthest from the mind of 16-year-old Davao lass Cheryl Sarate when she joined a state university's beauty pageant last July 20.

"Expect the unexpected" was Cheryl's motto in life. Yet, in the whirl of excitement, while on the catwalk parading her angel-inspired gown, Cheryl was struck by a tragedy that she must have never expected. As she was making her exit, her gown suddenly caught fire from one of the lit candles lined on stage for special effects. In a matter of seconds, a screaming Cheryl was ablaze in full view of pageant spectators. It took several seconds before some members of the stunned audience could react to help her; many thought the fire was part of the show. The first year AB-English student died three days later at a government-run hospital—from third degree burns in 80 percent of her body.

Cheryl's death shocked many Davaoeños, particularly after local TV repeatedly showed video footage of the tragic incident.

And even before Cheryl was laid to rest last Aug. 1, there was no stopping the finger-pointing and buck-passing among Cheryl's family, the pageant's organizers, officials of the University of Southeastern Philippines, the Bureau of Fire Protection, local government officials, and, even the media which castigated school authorities for lack of transparency in the conduct of an "internal investigation."

The NBI, at the request of Cheryl's family, and the Commission on Human Rights have stepped in to conduct separate probes. (Disclosure in response to questions from lawyer-colleagues and media people: Our family names may sound similar, but Cheryl is not a relative and her family is represented by lawyer Rani Leonar.)

Cheryl's fiery death has also ignited a political blaze in the city which celebrates, starting today, the week-long Kadayawan Festival, touted as the "festival of all festivals in Mindanao."

Among the festival's attraction is the search for the "Hiyas ng Kadayawan."

This year's "Hiyas" is a bit "controversial." In previous years, it only had women in the competition; this year, it includes three men, raising a howl from some local officials, including Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. In last week's session of the city council, members debated the whole morning on the propriety of males joining the contest.

Some claim that "*hiyas*" denotes femininity. Hiyas defenders argue in turn that the word "*hiyas*" means "jewel," thus, it is a gender-free contest.

"It's a modeling contest and not a beauty contest," claims city tourism chief Id Acaylar. Organizers say that "Hiyas" is not meant to be a "beauty contest" but a "cultural and fashion presentation" showcasing the indigenous culture of Mindanao.

Whether it's a "beauty contest" or a "modeling contest," there is no denying that this year's contestants—the male and the female—will still be largely judged on the basis of their physical appearance, giving truism to the saying that "beauty is skin-deep."

The present debate is ironic, to say the least, considering that Davao City prides itself as a "woman-friendly" city after passing in 1997 its "Women's Code" which established mechanisms to strengthen and protect the rights of women.

Probably the first of its kind in the country, the code, among others, also bans the holding of any "beauty contest" that tends to "commodify" or "objectify" women in any manner.

Yet, since 1997, beauty contests have been held as part of city celebrations—from barangay *fiestas* to the annual celebration of "Araw ng Dabaw," where a Mutya ng Dabaw is crowned.

"That is precisely the spirit of the code: to stop the exploitation of women; to stop the treatment of women as objects being paraded on stage to entertain the audience," commented lawyer Angela Librado-Trinidad, chair of the city's committee on women and children. While admitting that the Women's Code probably helped in the evolution of beauty contests in the city, Trinidad claims, it has not changed the concept that these competitions are meant "for tourism and for entertainment."

"Why can't we concentrate instead on contests and activities that express the real value of women?" Trinidad asked.

In fact, Davao City is not lacking in "more positive and innovative" ways in choosing representatives who will promote its rich culture and traditions. For example, there is the so-called RODY (Recognizing Outstanding Davao Youth) Project, where "young ambassadors" are selected based on their leadership skills and potentials. Physical appearance is not a requirement as contestants are instead required to, among other activities, undergo training on gender-sensitivity and disaster and environmental management; they are also "exposed" to rural and poverty-stricken communities to enable them to assess the people's needs and problems.

Cheryl's death reminds me of the black comedy film "Drop Dead Gorgeous (DDG)." The movie parodied the ugly face of the beauty pageant culture in America. Sadly, while "DDG" poked fun at how some people take the pageants seriously and at the extent contestants go to outclass and outwit each other, in Cheryl's case, a beauty pageant unexpectedly caused her death.

In the meantime that the debate on her death rages, Cheryl will certainly cast a long shadow, not only on this week's celebration of the Kadayawan Festival but even on the coming events where "beauty contests" have become a regular attraction.

* * *

*Comments at kar_laws@yahoo.com or karlos_z23@hotmail.com*

# The grand inquisitor

### THE LONG VIEW

*Manuel L. Quezon III*

KURT VONNEGUT ONCE OBSERVED, "FOR SOME reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes. But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere." Vonnegut was pointing out the basic immorality of society's self-proclaimed moral custodians. Hate the sin but love the sinner? But that opens to a possible debate on what is sin.

How much easier, more certain and eminently satisfying to decree, "Kill them all. God will know His own." The result is the perversion of the finer instincts of religion into a false trinity—faith, hope and bigotry, setting aside charity which represents an inconvenient truth: Christ was friend to prostitutes and tax collectors, and He debated even with the devil. Must Christianity end with Christ?

Retired Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz says that his vigorous and vicious condemnation of gays, lesbians and transgendered people is not supposed to incite hatred and intolerance—or to be precise, that he is not invoking a blanket condemnation of all gay people. He only objects to some, not all. For example, he has nothing but the most generous and respectful thoughts for those who conform to what he finds tasteful and tolerable behavior. And what is tasteful and tolerable as far as his wounded sensibilities are concerned? A minority meekly and absolutely surrendering to the tyranny of the majority, a sub-culture reduced to the subhuman, in which the individual is instructed to live out, every day, a total repudiation of the self. Cruz demands the elimination of a diverse and rich culture—one that is as much a mirror of society's larger complexities as it is an alternative to some of the worst instincts and features of the broader culture for which he has stepped forward as spokesman—because the minority displeases and disgusts him.

He would have me, and everyone else like me be a slave, a fugitive, a hypocrite and, most of all, a coward. And I find that disgusting. I find it neither reasonable nor acceptable. I do not even find it understandable. Cruz does not understand us, does not want to, would be unwilling to. Yet he says he hates only some, not all, of us, and expects "some of us" to embrace and thank him?

For what? That he reserves his scorn only for hairdressers and fashion designers? That he respects me, the writer, but heaps abuse on someone else because that someone uses slang I don't use, speaks louder than I do, wears what I don't wear—and those superficial differences are the things that guarantee me (and those who behave otherwise) Cruz's respect?

I will not embrace him, not for that, much less shake his hand or offer him the opportunity for civilized disagreement. For he is blind to the civilization to which I belong, and to the fundamental identity I share with those he despises. Whether we have a little learning or not, whether we speak in the same manner or not, regardless of what we wear and what mannerisms we choose to exhibit, we are the same, for in the fundamental things—those we choose to love, to have relationships with and with whom we aspire to share a life marked by a measure of domestic bliss and emotional contentment—there is no difference. To permit Cruz to make such distinctions is to grant him and all those like him an intolerable—because it is fundamentally unjust—power to define myself and those like me.

When he casts the law as an instrument for prosecution, persecution and discrimination, he must be fought. That he discredits polite behavior by portraying civilized discourse as a fancy disguise for his uncritical obedience and intolerant enforcement of uniformity; that he defames religion by turning it into an ideology of hate; that he makes a mockery of filial piety by insisting that tyrannical instincts should be cultivated among the elderly and enforced upon their direction—these should inspire not pity for his moral dementia; these must provoke anger. And condemnation.

To be different is to be held in suspicion. The nonconformist is a subversive. Subversion and rebellion make societies become more generous, more diverse, more compassionate—and an individual more free. For the inability—or unwillingness—to see rebellion as a virtue and not a flaw is what provokes the uncomprehending hostility that makes the anxious herd stifle dissent and stamp out anything different. But humanity is not a herd, and being human demands a vigilance against the kind of provocations that start stampedes.

I will respect anyone's convictions, but only to the extent you will respect mine. Goodwill inspires the same; tolerance results in cooperation. But I will not be told whom to love, whom to be friends with, what culture to represent, what mannerisms and interests to adopt and, much less, discard. I will not modify my behavior or limit my pleasures merely to please Cruz or bigots like him. The respect gays, lesbians and transgendered people experience is a brittle kind, but hard-won. Far more has to be won, in terms of actual legislation or in every sphere of our lives where discrimination virtually takes place every day.

The behavior Cruz finds so obnoxious is the price he and everyone else must pay for the pink triangles of the German concentration camps, the labor camps and prison cells of Soviet Russia and Communist China and Cuba, the merciless beatings and taunts endured by so many over so long a time. It is his punishment for representing a society whose instincts remain fundamentally murderous toward anyone different. If he weren't such a hate-monger, he might realize it's no punishment at all, and that society is all the better for the increased prominence of gays.

# Road maps

### COMMENTARY

*Butch Hernandez*

WITHIN A FIVE-DAY PERIOD, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD of Trustees of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power—led by its chair and 2006 Ramon Magsaysay awardee Eugenia Apostol—attended three education-themed meetings. These were separately convened by major business groups, civil society organizations and private corporate foundations.

The FWWPP's first sortie was a breakfast meeting hosted jointly by the League of Corporate Foundations (LCF) which is headed by its president, Vicky Garchitorena; the Philippine Business for Education (PBED) which had Dr. Chito Salazar as its lead representative; and the International Center for Innovation, Transformation and Excellence in Governance (INCITEGov) which was led by former Education Secretary Florencio "Butch" Abad, former Undersecretary Miguel Luz, and Mario Taguiwalo. On that same day, the major dailies carried full-page stories on the LCF's Corporate Social Responsibility Road Map.

At the meeting, Marilou Erni of the Petron Foundation and Mario Deriquito from the Ayala Foundation gave brief, albeit extremely clear, narratives on how the many facets outlined in the LCF's CSR Road Map eventually contributed toward making education a continuing national priority.

Abad and Taguiwalo, meanwhile, discussed the Basic Education Sector Reform Agenda (Besra) 2006-2010. Besra is a package of policy reforms that the Department of Education is currently pursuing. The package "as a whole seeks to systematically improve critical regulatory, institutional, structural, financial, cultural, physical and informational conditions affecting basic education provision, access and delivery on the ground."

Besra actually traces its roots to the education road map that FWWPP trustee Dr. Edilberto de Jesus crafted during his short but quite meaningful stint as education secretary, which evolved into Secretary Abad's Schools First Initiative.

Amid a lively exchange of views, this question was asked: The resources that the private sector has made available for public education—in the form of direct donations and various support programs—have been considerable and continue to increase. Wouldn't it be possible to leverage this sustained—and very sizeable—collective expression of support for a system-wide drive toward quality education?

Lawyer Fely Arroyo of the FWWPP answered that this is indeed very possible. In fact, the FWWPP has already been able to develop a full-fledged community-driven performance-based support framework precisely to address this issue. Joel Pagsanghan, also of the FWWPP, said that the framework is designed to be simple, scalable and can be easily integrated into existing programs and initiatives.

The FWWPP's next stop was at a working meeting organized by the eminent Dr. Jesus Estanislao's Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA).

Its executive director, Chris Zaens, and Dr. Antonio Torralba of the University of Asia and the Pacific, organized this particular gathering also for talks about a road map, this time for the academe.

The ISA activity that day was actually part of a larger initiative that seeks to make governance "a shared responsibility." Toward this end, ISA had earlier launched "Mahal Ko Ang Pilipinas," a movement that aims to promote responsible citizenship as a core social value.

In line with this, Zaens said that ISA has been holding a series of meetings among "sectoral anchors," one of which is the academe.

Arnulfo H. Empleo, the president of the National Association of Public Secondary School Heads got things going by pointing out that in this light, the academe plays a fundamental role in the formation of positive civic values.

FWWPP's Mentoring the Mentors Program director Chinit Rufino and FWWPP president Maria Lim Ayuyao cited the headway Mentoring the Mentors has made in empowering teachers with a deep sense of legacy. Rufino added that the overarching goal of the Mentoring the Mentors Program has always been to reinforce in the teacher her crucial role in value formation.

The FWWPP had one last meeting to join at the end of the week. We had been invited to a roundtable discussion on education. This was sponsored and organized by the Bato Balani Foundation Inc. (BBFI).

"Bato Balani" refers to magnetized iron ore, but the Filipino language being what it is, this phrase can also be used to characterize the power of knowledge.

BBFI, led by its board chair Saturnino K. Belen and president Lorna L. Belen, has been, for decades, at the forefront of activities to improve education. Its mission is simple: to invest in the nation's future through education improvement.

Dr. Prosy Fuentes of the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Institute (SAIDI) facilitated this roundtable discussion by asking the group to focus on public education's positive aspects and on how social networks could be mobilized to further enhance these characteristics.

This past week has been particularly edifying for us here at the FWWPP. As proponents of the Education Revolution, we are deeply encouraged by the depth of commitment exhibited by every participant in every meeting that we joined. The convening groups all had a common premise: the scope of the crisis facing Philippine education today demands an equally broad and unified effort that should involve all stakeholders, and the private sector could do well to take the lead.

At the very least, the quality of education that an individual acquires early in life directly affects his personal growth—not to mention his income—later on.

Furthermore, a compendium of research that spans four decades offers very strong evidence that a high quality school significantly enhances national economic potential.

At the very best, the social benefits derived from quality education are virtually limitless.

*Butch Hernandez is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, with e-mail at execdir@fwwpp.org.*

### THEY SAID

## Sacrosanct gesture

"Sanctuary is sacrosanct—it is beyond the laws of man. We do not give [soldiers] aid and comfort to break man's law. We give them sanctuary to give them the respect [due them] as children of God and the moral bearings to guide them in their actions."

*—Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias, explaining why he harbored mutinous soldiers who had escaped from detention*

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# ConCon in GMA's road map

THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED ADVOCACY Commission and Sigaw ng Bayan are pushing hard to revise our Charter through the legally dubious "people's initiative." There are media reports about deception and corruption, like the misuse of government funds and personnel, as well as active government support of people's initiative.

We, ordinary citizens and stakeholders, including the overseas Filipino workers, are appealing to our political leaders to allow us to exercise our right to directly participate in the crucial process of revising our Constitution by electing our delegates to a less partisan and truly democratic Constitutional Convention.

We are appealing to the contending parties to set aside their differences and objectively study and listen to the professional and non-partisan recommendations in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004-2010. Prepared by the National and Economic Development Authority with the active participation of the Arroyo administration, the MTPDP is our country's road map for economic development and progress under the leadership of Ms Arroyo.

Chapter 25 of the plan recommends the following: "The reassessment of the Constitution through the Constitutional Convention to implement the needed structural and systemic reforms in political institutions and the electoral and political party systems is imperative. The reassessment includes: (a) a shift from the current bicameral presidential form of government to a unicameral parliamentary form of government that would unify and coordinate the executive and legislative functions in the parliament; (b) a change from the present centralized unitary system to a decentralized federal system; (c) structural and functional reforms affecting the electoral party systems; (d) defining political dynasties and making the constitutional prohibition against political dynasties self-executory."

We sincerely join Ms Arroyo in her call for "the support of all sectors of our society to ensure its (MTPDP's) realization. The MTPDP can only be realized through a strong partnership as well as through more equitable risk-sharing among government, the business sector and civil society.

We also appeal to Sigaw ng Bayan and Speaker Jose de Venecia's group to stop threatening the people with the alleged "huge expenses of the ConCon." After all, the President and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves have repeatedly assured us that "there is enough money for Charter change." Besides, government revenues have tremendously increased under the aggressive implementation of the EVAT law.

**—LEOPOLDO T. CAUSING,**
**Iloilo convenor,**
**Citizens Movement**
**for a Federal Philippines,**
**46 Mission Road Ext., Lapaz, Iloilo City**

# 2006 Sona offered Philippines for sale

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S 2006 State of the Nation Address was not what the people wanted to hear. People needed to hear concrete solutions to the worsening political and economic crises that have relentlessly besieged our nation under her rule.

Unlike the previous Sona promises—"food on the table, jobs for the jobless"—President Arroyo's 2006 Sona bubbled with hallucinatory catch phrases like "super regions," the development of which would entail trillions of pesos. Despite the audacity with which the hallucination was presented, it failed to impress or convince even the President's own ranks and some allies.

Even her fellow politicians, who think in the same framework of progress, asked: "Where would the money come from?" Indeed, it was clear from her 2006 Sona, that funds would be generated by tailoring the Constitution to fit the "millennium" framework of globalization—a definite political and economic suicide that would lead to the foreign control of all aspects of our economy, even as it would benefit only the meager 1 percent rich of the population. GMA's economic line in her 2006 Sona was undoubtedly—the Philippines for sale!

As unforgettable was the cocky line, "If you want to pick old fights, we're game." And as if to rub salt on a bleeding wound, she gave high praises to her pet general, Jovito Palparan who is known to grieving families and colleagues of the victims of militant killings as the "*berdugo*" (executioner) of activists.

Notably, what was missing in GMA's Sona was her plan to resolve the war in Mindanao. Instead she crowed, "*May Jollibee na sa* Basilan!" She must have thought that such superficialities are signs of progress. Does a Jollibee make Basilan a more developed province? Will people find solace and peace in a Jollibee outlet when the fact remains that Ms Arroyo has not lived up to her vow in 2001 to free Basilan from a "state of lawlessness"?

The President said she has had enough of politics but her Sona was overflowing with it. In fact, politicking was what it was all about.

**—ASLANIE DUMADALOG,**
**Liga ng Kabataang Moro (Manila Chapter), Barangay Salam Mosque Compound, Culiat, Tandang Sora, QC**

# Media not gagged in 'impeach' hearings

THERE IS NO GAG ORDER IMPOSED ON THE media in the House of Representatives, contrary to the sweeping claim made by the Aug. 9 INQUIRER editorial.

Reporters from all accredited media agencies are free to cover the entire impeachment proceedings. Before each meeting, photographers are allowed a five-minute photo opportunity. After the meeting closes, the chair and his members conduct a press briefing. No restrictions are made on what is written, aired and printed. Reporters have direct access to the source. Information is not filtered.

The coverage rules that apply to the ongoing impeachment hearings are exactly the same as those applied during last year's impeachment hearings as well as those in the 2005 wiretapping hearings and the 2004 presidential canvassing proceedings. These hearings were given end-to-end live coverage on national television.

Any restrictions upon the actions of media are based on the usual rules for orderly behavior in House committee meetings of this magnitude. For instance, photo coverage is limited because the flashbulbs and constant movement (from one angle to another) of photographers are particularly distracting. The limitation on taking pictures—which is beyond our control anyway—has nothing to do with ensuring flattering photos.

To reduce ambient noise, radio and television reporters are expected not to conduct verbal commentary and interviews inside the room while the hearing is going on. If reporters would like to interview the panel members, they can proceed outside the room, so as not to create sideshows in such a small venue.

We have established a record of making accessible and transparent to media and the public these events while ensuring that media coverage does not unduly hamper House proceedings. At the onset of the justice committee meeting held last Aug. 8, we made sure media reporters from all agencies had space within the relatively small Andaya Hall. For those who could not get into the standing-room-only (SRO) hall, we provided television monitors outside the room, following our usual policy.

The editorial was based on a blatant misinterpretation of our in-house coverage rules. It was unfair to our institution and to the House media corps, whose outspoken membership should now be raising hell if we were as secretive and forbidding as you imagined us to be. The editorial is so off the mark that it qualifies as grandstanding at our expense. We welcome criticism, but not when it is based on false, inaccurate perceptions.

**—EMMANUEL A. ALBANO,**
**deputy secretary general,**
**Public Relations**
**and Information Department,**
**House of Representatives, Quezon City**

*The PRID issued an advisory (dated Aug. 3, 2006) which imposed guidelines just for the media coverage of impeachment hearings. This was withdrawn upon the insistence of the opposition.—Ed.*

# Punish sources of leakage

BECAUSE OF THE LEAKAGE IN THE NURSing board exams held last June 11 and 12, the integrity of the nursing profession in our country has been cast under a very dark cloud of doubt. The leakage also caused demoralization in the ranks of nurses, the examinees and nursing students.

Before the controversy, Filipino nurses were known in the United States and in other countries for their professionalism and competence.

Those responsible for the leakage should be prosecuted and brought to justice. Their trial should be shown on TV and covered by other media outlets. If the results of the board exams must be cancelled, those responsible should be made to shoulder all the expenses for a new exam." They should be punished for what they have done to our nursing profession and country.

In my opinion, the Professional Regulation Commission should not release the results of the June 2006 nursing board exams. It should first require the examinees to retake Test 3 and Test 5.

I believe in our government officials. I believe that the concerned officials will arrive at a fair resolution of this controversy so that our nursing profession will recover its standing in the world community.

**—ENGILBERT UY,**
**(June 11 and 12, 2006 examinee)**
**ismaelgigit@yahoo.com**

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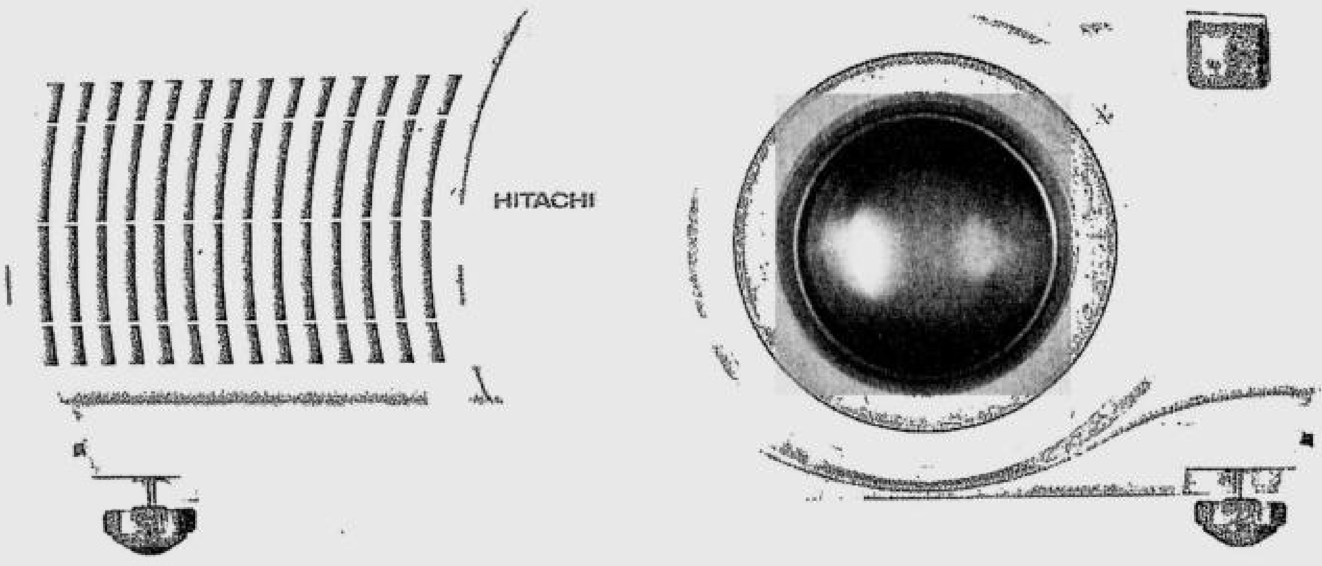

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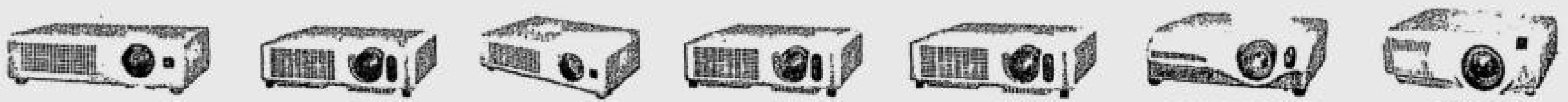
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# US helped Israel plan attack, says report

NEW YORK—THE US GOVERNMENT WAS closely involved in the planning of Israel's military operations against the Islamic militant group Hezbollah even before the July 12 kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers, The New Yorker magazine reported in its latest issue.

The kidnapping triggered a monthlong Israeli operation in south Lebanon that is expected to come to an end on Monday.

But Pulitzer Prize-winning US journalist Seymour Hersh writes that President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney were convinced that a successful Israeli bombing campaign against Hezbollah could ease Israel's security concerns and also serve as a prelude to a potential US preemptive attack to destroy Iran's nuclear installations.

Citing an unnamed Middle East expert with knowledge of the current thinking of the Israeli and US governments, the report says Israel had devised a plan for attacking Hezbollah—and shared it with Bush administration officials—well before the July 12 kidnappings.

The expert added that the White House had several reasons for supporting a bombing campaign, according to the report.

If there was to be a military option against Iran, it had to get rid of the weapons that Hezbollah could use in a potential retaliation against Israel, Hersh writes.

Citing a US government consultant with close ties to Israel, Hersh also reports that earlier this summer and before the Hezbollah kidnappings, several Israeli officials visited Washington "to get a green light" for a bombing operation following a Hezbollah provocation, and "to find out how much the United States would bear."

"The Israelis told us it would be a cheap war with many benefits," the magazine quotes the consultant as saying. "Why oppose it? We'll be able to hunt down and bomb missiles, tunnels and bunkers from the air. It would be a demo for Iran."

US government officials have denied the charges.

Nonetheless, Hersh writes that a former senior intelligence official said some officers serving with the US Joint Chiefs of Staff remained deeply concerned that the Bush administration would have a far more positive assessment of the air campaign than they should.

"There is no way that (Defense Secretary Donald) Rumsfeld and Cheney will draw the right conclusion about this," the report quotes the former official as saying.

"When the smoke clears, they'll say it was a success, and they'll draw reinforcement for their plan to attack Iran." *AFP*

# Conflict of interest issue …

**From page A1**

The ethics issue stemmed from the call of some congressmen that members who allegedly received fertilizer funds from the President for their election campaign in 2004 should inhibit themselves from committee deliberations on the ground of conflict of interest.

The new complaint alleged that the President illegally used and disbursed road users' tax and fertilizer funds under the so-called Ginintuan Masaganang Ani (GMA) program for her presidential campaign in 2004.

This allegation is part of the expanded new package of complaints that includes the charge that the President allegedly "interfered with and manipulated the official election duties (of then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano) to orchestrate and implement electoral fraud."

## People in glass house

The allegation on the disbursements of the fertilizer funds is our focus. It is sensitive to congressmen because the issue strikes at the heart of what's politically dear to them. It involves political patronage, which is a matter of life and death, especially for reelectionists in next year's congressional vote.

And so, some self-righteous congressmen, who appeared to posture themselves as having more sensitive ethical standards than their fellows, hit a raw nerve and provoked such reactions as those enunciated by veteran Rep. Luis Villafuerte of Camarines Sur: "People living in glass house should not throw stones."

From another point of view, Rep. Teodoro Locsin of Makati pointed out that he was the first House member to denounce the fertilizer largesse. But on a question of principle, he argued, the call for inhibition on the ground of conflict of interests, constituted "undue pressure" on members from their colleagues who back impeachment.

Locsin, one of the few congressmen who could delineate facts from passion, argued that bowing to pressure would reduce the hearings to a "show trial" and that members were not qualified to pass ethical judgment on fellow members, unless, I may add, they are deliberating in the House ethics committee on charges of wrongdoing of their kind.

## A crippling move

The practical result of the inhibition is that the withdrawal of some would reduce the number of congressmen endorsing the complaint and the call is thus a crippling tactical operation to assist the impeachment supporters.

Going back to Villafuerte, it is necessary to point out that a number of congressmen were named in the Commission on Audit report on the P728-million fertilizer fund to have received largesse. The recipients included both members of the administration's majority coalition and of the opposition.

It should be in the public interest to reveal these names. From what I have read so far since the fertilizer fund was raised as an issue in the impeachment complaint, the list is quite long and can cause considerable red faces of those taking the ethical high ground on the issue.

The point being made in the proposal to reveal the names of the recipients of the fertilizer fund is that the revelation will show who are the saints and sinners in the House.

But experience in legislative inquiries of cases of who are the beneficiaries of pork barrel and of the rectitude of legislators tends to show that legislators never pursue the inquiry to its logical conclusion.

## A can of worms

Such an inquiry inevitably ends not only in a whitewash but also in the finding that the sinners would far outnumber the saints, and indeed, there would be no saint left to throw the first stone. This is the reason we are getting only a selective disclosure of the recipients of the fertilizer fund largesse in the audit report because it opens a whole can of worms.

If we pursue the congressional debate over the conflict of interest issue concerning the fertilizer fund, it is not entirely impossible that the committee on justice might have to close shop and stop this hypocritical exercise on ethics because it might not find any one who can stand scrutiny as qualified to examine the complaints on the merit.

This possibility is what makes Locsin so right in his counsel not to make the issue of the fertilizer fund the test of the qualification or disqualification of congressmen to participate in hearings on the complaint.

The diversion to the hearing not only derails the hearing. It leads to an early collapse of the process in the House, from which the obvious beneficiary would be Ms Arroyo, while the House would be splattered with mud all around.

Whoever conceived the bright idea of raising the issue should examine whether he is unwittingly sabotaging the impeachment campaign.

# 3 TV crew …

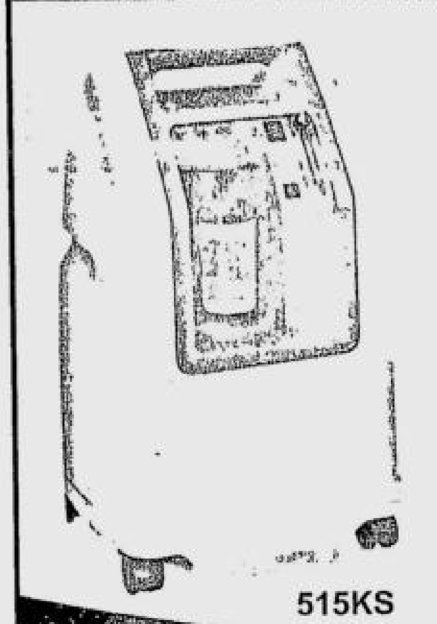
**From page A1**

Barangay del Rosario, about 20 km north of Naga.

Jun Alegre, a reporter of radio dzRH, said the ABC staff members left Legazpi after lunch and were on their way back to Manila.

"We even had a dinner last night where Hazel introduced to me to the group that would relieve them," he said.

He added that he even gave the team pili nut candies and red wine. *With a report from Luige del Puerto*



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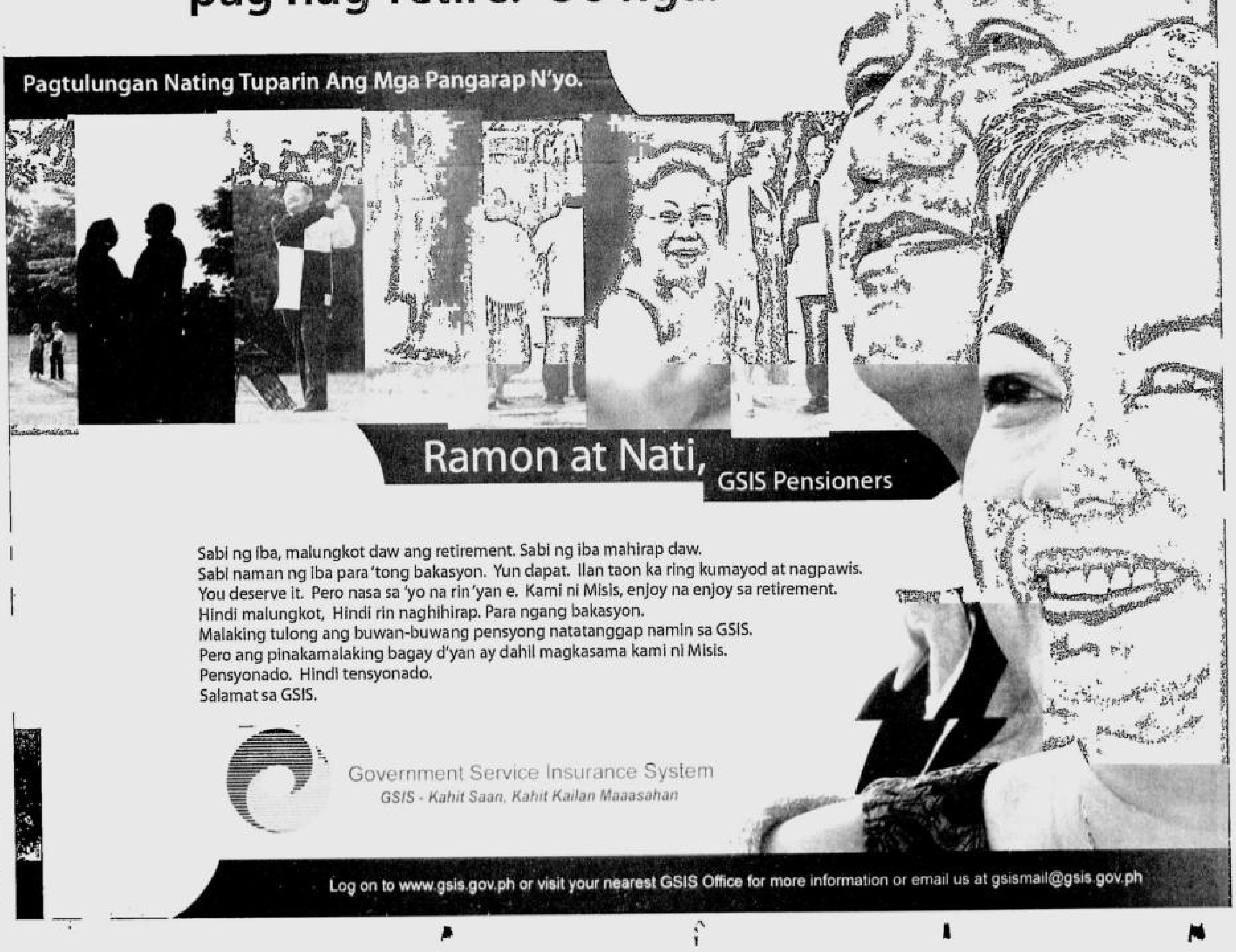

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# Oil slick threatens W. Visayas coasts

BACOLOD CITY—THE OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE IN Western Visayas warned that an oil slick was threatening certain coastal areas of Guimaras, Iloilo City and Negros Occidental after a cargo ship carrying two million liters of bunker fuel for Petron Corp. sank off Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, at around 4 p.m. on Friday.

Two crew members of the ill-fated tanker, MT Solar I, were still missing, according to the OCD regional director, Rosario Cabrera.

Capt. Luis Tuason, of the Philippine Coast Guard in Iloilo City, reported yesterday that at about 4:10 p.m. on Friday, Solar I, owned by Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. of Manila and chartered by Petron, sank 30 nautical miles south-southwest of Iloilo City.

The vessel came from Bataan and was bound for Zamboanga City when it sank amid strong waves.

Missing were crew members Victor Morados of Dumaguete City and Art Ian Nabua of Bataan.

Cabrera said Tuason informed her that an aerial survey yesterday found an oil slick being drifted by the southwest monsoon to San Roque, Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, and the western portion of Negros Occidental, mainly Bago City and the towns of San Enrique and Valladolid, and Iloilo City.

Tuason said the Coast Guard had mobilized the Oil Spill Combat Teams with the assistance of Petron.

"We have sent teams to assess the damage and start the clean-up operation early tomorrow (Monday) morning to minimize the effects of spilt oil," Tuason said. *Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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**RELATIVES** and sympathizers carry the coffin bearing the remains of Reimon Guran at a cemetery in Bulan, Sorsogon.

AFP

# Sorsogon student leader buried

BULAN, SORSOGON—HUNDREDS OF YOUTH and students in black shirts braved heavy rains as a huge throng of mourners and supporters took Rei Mon Guran to his final resting place at the Bulan public cemetery here.

Guran, spokesperson of the militant League of Filipino Students-Albay, was shot dead early morning of July 31, a day after he celebrated his 21st birthday.

He was the 31st victim of political killings in Sorsogon, according to local human rights groups. Local officials have appealed for an immediate stop to the killings.

Arnel Guran, the victim's father, vowed that his family and the entire clan would carry on Rei Mon's fight.

"If my son was a sacrificial lamb in this fight, I hope he would be the last. Let us stop all this fighting," the victim's mother, Maridesa, appealed during the necrological service at the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

Mayor Helen de Castro also appealed to those who might be involved in the series of violence to put a stop to all the senseless killings.

Michael Golimlim, LFS provincial chair, said the "enemies of truth and justice" were eliminating those who actively espouse them.

In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, Arnel accused the military of being responsible for the death of his son.

He said intelligence agents had been tailing Rei Mon weeks before he was shot dead. His son had confided to him that some unfamiliar persons on motorcycles had been passing by their boarding house in Legazpi City.

"I told him to be very careful. I knew this would come but I didn't realize that it would be this soon," the father said.

Maridesa, a public school teacher, said her son would sometimes tell her through text messages that he had alighted in Sorsogon from a van he took in Legazpi on his way to Bulan as he had noticed "some friends" in the van.

He believed he was being tailed so he would drop by Sorsogon City and tag along some friends to Bulan to ensure that they would not touch him, she said.

Rei Mon was shot and killed in a Queens bus that would have taken him to Legazpi, where he was taking up AB Political Science at the Aquinas University.

He had four bullet wounds in the head, body and arms and died on the spot.

As was in the case of other political killings, police had yet to identify the killers.

Local military and police officials have denied any involvement of their men in the killings.

The Bulan police remained clueless about the identities of those behind the killing.

*Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

# 7 dead in rescue of kidnap victims

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A 53-YEAR-OLD KIDNAP victim died minutes after she was rescued from her captors in Jolo, Sulu, on Saturday afternoon.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, deputy chief of the Southern Command, said Jackylyn Sildin was rescued by Army and police forces at around 5 p.m. Saturday, but she died from multiple stab and hack wounds at the Sulu Provincial Hospital.

Dolorfino said Sildin was tortured by her captors. "Her kneecaps were removed and her stomach had a huge slash," he said.

About 12 hours earlier, the head of Sildin's son, 28-year-old Jeffrey, was found near the Integrated Provincial Health Office in Barangay Asturias in Jolo. His body was later found in Barangay Godinez in Patikul town.

The Sildins were on their way to downtown Jolo when they were snatched near their house in Barangay Gandasuli on July 27. The family owns a bakery and a pawnshop in Jolo.

During Saturday's rescue operation, a policeman and five suspected kidnappers were killed.

Sulu police chief Senior Supt. Ahirum Ajirim identified the slain policeman as SPO3 Bas Isad.

Ajirim said Isad was a decorated policeman who had frequently been adjudged an outstanding officer.

"It is a big loss to the PNP Sulu Force. He was a great officer," Ajirim said.

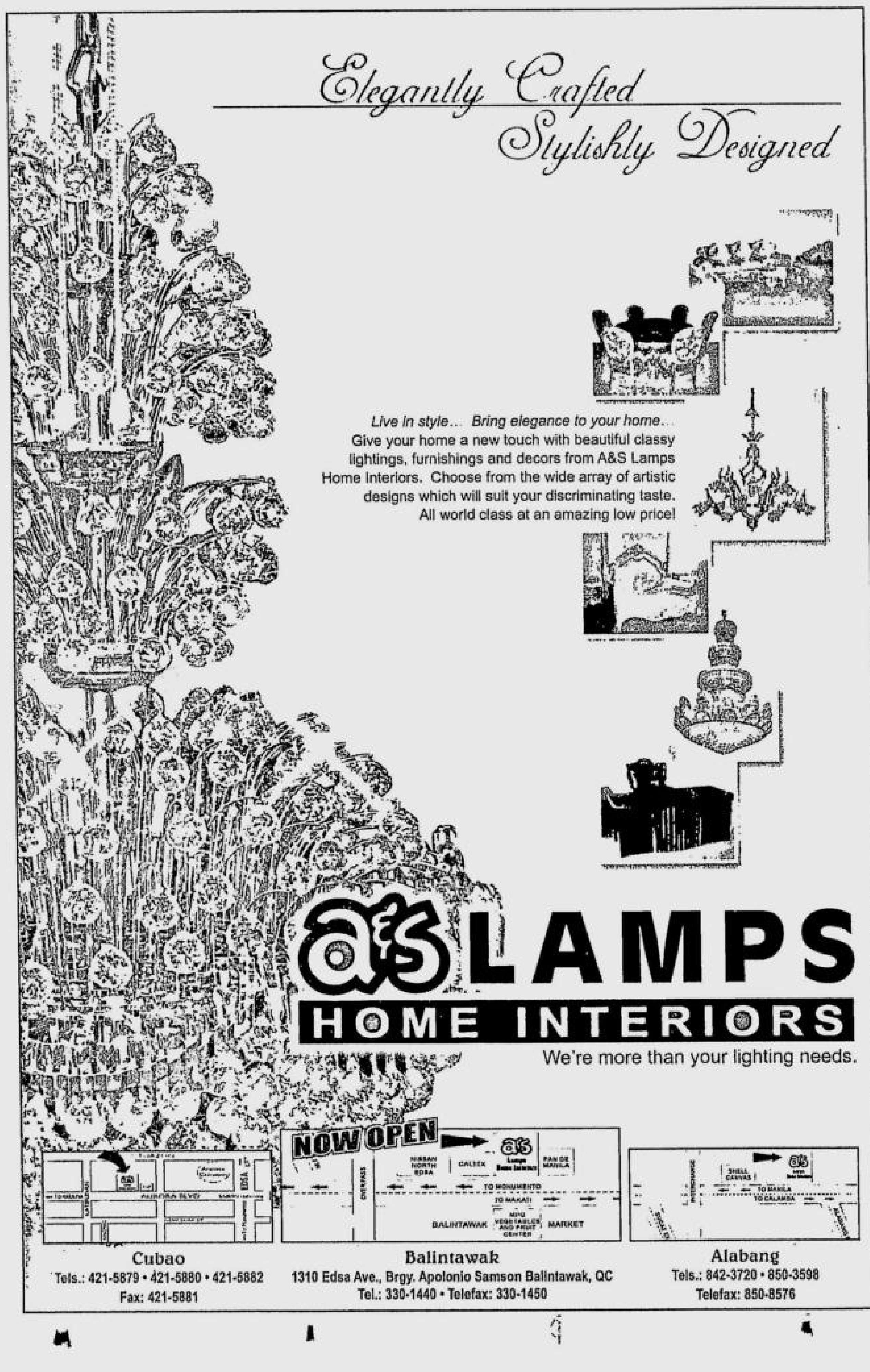
Dolorfino said five suspected kidnappers were also killed in the operation. He identified four of them as Dammang Sali, Marlon Adjuran, a certain Jaid and a certain Janday.

Lito Sildin said the family was shocked over the deaths of his son and wife. "I still don't know what to do," he said.

The elder Sildin said that before his son's remains were found, the kidnappers had asked for a P10-million ransom.

"They had threatened to kill him if we didn't pay. But we can't afford the demand. We are not rich so we requested for more time to produce the money," he said.

*Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*



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# Thousands lose homes due to floods in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
*Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—WAVES AS TALL AS TREES and floods brought by torrential rains struck coastal villages of southern Negros Occidental on Saturday, destroying hundreds of houses and rendering thousands of people homeless.

In Negros Oriental, waves spawned by the rains washed away houses in a fishing village in Siaton town.

Authorities counted 53,341 people displaced by the waves and flooding in 79 villages in nine towns and four cities in southern Negros Occidental.

At least 258 houses were destroyed while 1,972 others were damaged, according to the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office.

The disaster-hit villages are in the towns of Binalbagan, Cauayan, Hinigaran, Hinoba-an, Ilog, Pontevedra, Pulupandan, San Enrique and Valladolid and the cities of Bago, Himamaylan, La Carlota and Sipalay.

A report of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist estimated initial crop loss at P3,371,949.

Pulupandan Mayor Luis Mondia said the municipal council would declare a state of calamity during a special session today.

This was the worst flooding that hit the town, which is situated below sea level, because of the continuous flow of water from the upland areas and the big waves at high tide, Mondia said.

As of Friday, 14 houses had been destroyed and 1,221 damaged.

San Enrique Mayor Jilson Tubillara said big waves lashed the shoreline of Barangay Tibsoc while a bridge in Barangay Nayon was about to fall.

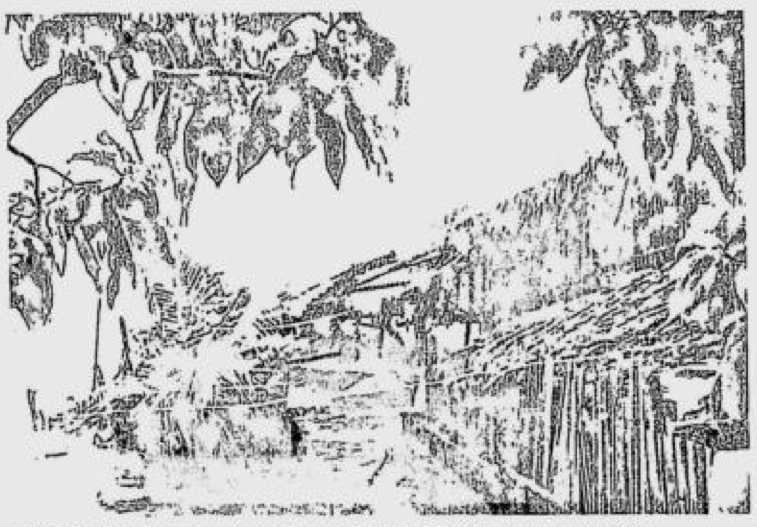
Four houses were destroyed and 19 others were damaged, he said.

Valladolid Mayor Ricardo Presbitero said crops and property worth P5.7 million were damaged in his town. Fifty-six houses were destroyed and 266 others damaged, he said.

In Siaton, displaced fishing families have been evacuated to the Siaton Auditorium.

But many other residents of Barangay 3 refuse to evacuate to safe grounds, saying they were already used to this kind of weather," said Mayor Vincent Arbolado.

"The sad thing if we allow these residents to stay in their homes is that we are the ones who will be blamed if anything happens to them," Arbolado said. *With a report from Alex Pal, Inquirer Visayas*



**A SHANTY** was destroyed and several houses were partially damaged as huge waves spawned by the south monsoon destroy several houses in Maasin City.

JANI ARNAIZ/INQUIRER VISAYAS

## 4 fishers rescued

By Alex Pal
*Inquirer Visayas*

DUMAGUETE CITY—FOUR FISHERMEN were plucked out of shark-infested waters on Thursday night near Siquijor Island while two others were still missing after the dinghy they boarded in seeking help for their distressed fishing boat capsized in the middle of the sea.

Welino Gubuan, Siquijor civil defense officer and assistant regional director for civil defense in Central Visayas, identified those rescued as Joel Lapasaran, 21, Junasky Alcantara, 23, Johnny Anlap, 15, and Rommel Nosol, 37, all of Basay, Negros Oriental.

They were crew members of the FB St. Mary, which developed engine trouble near Apo Island while sailing back to Basay from Plaridel, Misamis Occidental, and encountering strong winds.

Gubuan said Alcantara and Nosol were rescued by fishermen in Maria town after swimming for three hours, fighting the cold and strong currents. Lapasaran and Anlap, who held on to the dinghy, were found by the MV Don Martin Sr. 8 and turned over to the tugboat Andrea at around 5:45 p.m.

Two other fishermen—Jay Totica, 30, and Domy Maganao, 50—have remained missing.

Lapasaran and Anlap said that as their fishing boat was tossed about by huge waves and drifted, six of them got on the dinghy to seek help. When they were already far from their boat, the dinghy capsized.

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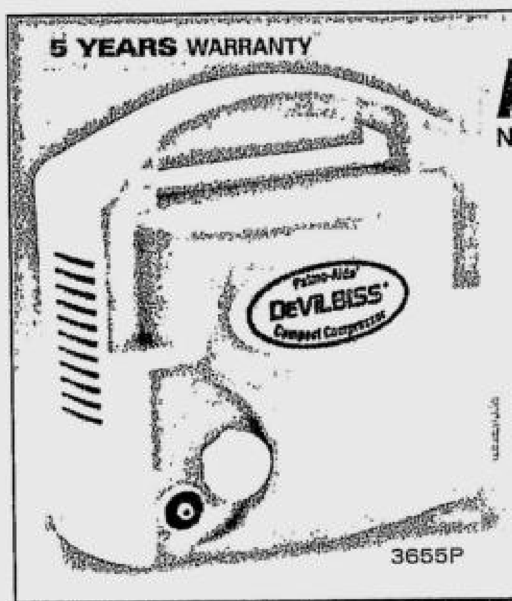

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### SAN JUAN

SJ-L-1 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 45 sqm FA 123.56sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit 11 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,163,000**

SJ-L-2 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 45 sqm FA 123.56 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit12 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,336,000**

SJ-L-10 - Condominium (Office)
FA 188.41
Unit Mezzanine Shop 5, Goldland Tower Condo
Eisenhower St., Greenhills
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,413,000**

SJ-L-11 – Condominium (Office)
FA 300 sqm
Unit 667-A V.V. Soliven Commercial Complex, EDSA
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,050,000**

SJ-L-12 – Condomnum (Office)
FA 44.9 sqm
Unit 2001 V.V. Soliven Commercial Complex, EDSA
**Min. Bid Price: P 607,000**

SJ-L-13 – Condominium (Office)
FA 26 sqm
Unit 2002 V.V. Soliven Commercial Complex, EDSA
**Min. Bid Price: P 351,000**

SJ-L-14 – Condominium (Office)
FA 84 sqm
With parking slot
Suite 409 Sunrise Condominium, Ortigas Avenue (nearest corner - McKinley St.)
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,740,000**

SJ-L-15 – Condominium
FA 214 sqm
Residential condo: 3BR, 3TB; with 2 parking slots
Unit 403 Westwood Condominium, Eisenhower St. Greenhills
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,693,000**

SJ-L-16 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 34.5 sqm FA 105.52 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit 6 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,884,000**

SJ-L-17 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 34.5 sqm FA 105.52 sqm
3-storey residential townhouse-type condominium with 2BR, 3TB, with parking
Unit 8 Crystal Townhomes, No. 463 Don Ejercito St.
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,884,000**

### RIZAL

#### RIZAL - TAYTAY

RIZ-L-21 - House & Lot
LA 560 sqm FA 333.9 sqm
One-storey residential
Lot 5 & 6 Block 21 Capri St., San Francisco Village
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,310,000**

#### RIZAL – BINANGONAN

RIZ-L-17 - House & Lot
LA 450 sqm FA 420 sqm
residental bldg, 3-storey+attic; 3BR, 3TB, carport
Lot 11 Block 36 Ligaya St., San Carlos Heights
Bo Tayuman
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,991,000**

RIZ-V-45 - Vacant Lot
LA 204 sqm
Lot 56 Block 83 Village East Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 383,000**

#### RIZAL - ANTIPOLO

RIZ-L-4 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 65 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2 BR & 1 TB, garage
Lot 11 Block 1 Buenos Aires Townhomes, Sumulong Highway
**Min. Bid Price: P 501,000**

RIZ-L-5 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 106.4 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2BR, 2TB, garage
Lot 8 Block 1 Buenos Aires Townhomes, Sumulong Highway
**Min. Bid Price: P 862,000**

RIZ-L-6 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 72 sqm FA 107 sqm
2-storey townhouse with 2BR, 2TB, garage
Lot 9 Block 1 Buenos Aires Townhomes, Sumulong Highway
**Min. Bid Price: P 800,000**

RIZ-L-15 – Others
LA 213 sqm FA 445 sqm
3-storey school building with 7CR
Lot 1 Block 7 Emerald corner Zircon Sts., Pines City Royale Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,976,000**

RIZ-L-20 - House & Lot
LA 864 sqm FA 560 sqm
2-storey residential house and an unfinished 2-storey residential, 2BR, 1TB
Lot 10 Block 3 Tailorbird St., Victoria Valley Subd.
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,110,000**

RIZ-V-4 - Vacant Lot
LA 305 sqm
Lot 20 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 854,000**

RIZ-V-5 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 22 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-6 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 25 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 31 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 424 sqm
Lot 37 Block 1 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,188,000**

RIZ-V-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 8 Block 2 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 300 sqm
Lot 23 Block 2 Clarkson St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 28 Block 2 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hill
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 29 Block 2 Clarkson St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 367 sqm
Lot 32 Block 2 Concorde St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,131,000**

RIZ-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 420 sqm
Lot 25 Block 3 Carmel St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,176,000**

RIZ-V-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 370 sqm
Lot 29 Block 3 Chelsea St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 985,000**

RIZ-V-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 49 Block 3 Chelsea St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 863,000**

RIZ-V-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 367 sqm
Lot 53 Block 3 Chelsea St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,105,000**

RIZ-V-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 420 sqm
Lot 11 Block 1 Carmel St., Sta Catalina 1, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,176,000**

RIZ-V-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 720 sqm
Lot 3 Block 1 Sta Monica 3, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,168,000**

RIZ-V-21 - Vacant Lot
LA 720 sqm
Lot 2 Block 1 Sta Monica 3, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,168,000**

RIZ-V-22 - Vacant Lot
LA 820 sqm
Lot 1 Block 1 Sta Monica 3, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,583,000**

RIZ-V-23 - Vacant Lot
LA 357 sqm
Lot 1 Block 13 Narcisus Drive, Beverly Hills Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 641,000**

RIZ-V-28 - Vacant Lot
LA 876 sqm
Lot 19 Block 16 Sunflower Drive Extension, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 975,000**

RIZ-V-29 - Vacant Lot
LA 669 sqm
Lot 7 Block 16 Sunflower Drive Extension, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 884,000**

RIZ-V-31 - Vacant Lot
LA 1508 sqm
Lot 5 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,086,000**

RIZ-V-32 - Vacant Lot
LA 1811sqm
Lot 6 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,304,000**

RIZ-V-33 - Vacant Lot
LA 1622 sqm
Lot 7 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,168,000**

RIZ-V-34 - Vacant Lot
LA 3069 sqm
Lot 8 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,210,000**

RIZ-V-35 - Vacant Lot
LA 2032 sqm
Lot 9 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,464,000**

RIZ-V-36 - Vacant Lot
LA 1271 sqm
Lot 10 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 916,000**

RIZ-V-37 - Vacant Lot
LA 1181 sqm
Lot 11 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 851,000**

RIZ-V-38 - Vacant Lot
LA 1243 sqm
Lot 12 Block 15 Beverly Hills Avenue, Beverly Hills Subdivision
**Min. Bid Price: P 895,000**

RIZ-V-39 - Vacant Lot
LA 610 sqm
Lot 11 Block 5 Kirksville St., Parkridge Estate, Mayamot
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,647,000**

RIZ-V-40 - Vacant Lot
LA 621sqm
Lot 26 Block 5 Parkridge Estate 1, dela Paz
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,631,000**

RIZ-V-41 - Vacant Lot
LA 705 sqm
Lot 1 Block 4 Shreveport St., Parkridge Estate
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,728,000**

RIZ-V-42 - Vacant Lot
LA 668 sqm
Lot 17 Clifton St., Town and Country Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,004,000**

RIZ-V-43 - Vacant Lot
LA 2040.6 sqm
Lot 32 Block 5 King's Road, Valley Golf Subdivision, Mayamot
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,857,000**

RIZ-V-44 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,469 sqm
Lot 1 Block 1 Beverly St., Sta Barbara 2, Mission Hills Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,378,000**

RIZ-V-50 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,111 sqm
Lot 3 Block 1 Beverly St., Sta Barbara, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 6,650,000**

RIZ-V-51 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,099 sqm
Lot 4 Block 1 Beverly St., Sta Barbara, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 6,012,000**

RIZ-V-52 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,010 sqm
Lot 7 Block 2 Mission Hills Ave., Sta Barbara, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,182,000**

RIZ-V-53 - Vacant Lot
LA 360 sqm
Lot 19 Block 4 Cedar St., Sta Catalina, Mission Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 980,000**

RIZ-V-55 - Vacant Lot
LA 882.00 sqm
Lot 14 Block 11 2nd Avenue, Beverly Hills Subd., Taytay
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,129,000**

RIZ-V-56 - Vacant Lot
LA 817 sqm
Lots 4 & 16 Block 11, 2nd Avenue, Beverly Hills Subd., Taytay
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,046,000**

RIZ-V-57 - Vacant Lot
LA 764 sqm
Lot 19 Block 12 Indiana St., Palos Verde Executive Village, Bo. Seven Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,834,000**

RIZ-V-58 - Vacant Lot
LA 1570 sqm
Lot 11 Block 10 Beverly Hills Avenue & Azucena St., Beverly Hills Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000**

RIZ-V-59 - Vacant Lot
LA 150 sqm
Lot 24 Block 6 Apitong St., Town & Country Heights, Bgy San Luis
**Min. Bid Price: P 282,000**

RIZ-V-60 - Vacant Lot
LA 693 sqm
Lots 9 & 10 Block 52 Phase III Forest Hills Residential Estate Golf & Country Club, Bgy San Isidro
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,010,000**

#### RIZAL – SAN MATEO

RIZ-L-22 - House & Lot
LA 218 sqm FA 296 sqm
Lot 2-H-2-B Plater Subd., Ampid, San Mateo
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,518,000**

#### RIZAL – CÁINTA

RIZ-L-1 - House & Lot (unfinished)
LA 261 sqm FA 524 sqm
3-storey (incl attic) residential building
Lots 8 & 9 Roosevelt Park Subdivision, Cainta
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,024,000**

RIZ-L-24 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 90 sqm FA 214 sqm
2-storey townhouse with attic
Lots 10 & 11 Southfort Villa Townhomes, ROTC Hunters Road, Cainta
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,253,000**

#### RIZAL – ANGONO

RIZ-V-61 - Vacant Lot
LA 283 sqm
Lot 15 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 213,000**

RIZ-V-62 - Vacant Lot
LA 587 sqm
Lot 8 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 705,000**

RIZ-V-63 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 2 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 510,000**

RIZ-V-64 - Vacant Lot
LA 370 sqm
Lot 5 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 444,000**

RIZ-V-65 - Vacant Lot
LA 296 sqm
Lot 2 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 378,000**

RIZ-V-66 - Vacant Lot
LA 181 sqm
Lot 12 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 204,000**

RIZ-V-67 – Vacant Lot
LA 280 sqm
Lot 19 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 210,000**

RIZ-V-68 - Vacant Lot
LA 280 sqm
Lot 17 Block 32 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 210,000**

RIZ-V-69 - Vacant Lot
LA 181 sqm
Lot 13 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 204,000**

RIZ-V-70 - Vacant Lot
LA 382 sqm
Lot 11 Block 31 Village East Executive Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 430,000**

RIZ-V-71 - Vacant Lot
LA 150 sqm
Lot 21 Block 7 La Salle Ave. Town & Country Heights, Bgy San Luis
**Min. Bid Price: P 293,000**

### PASIG CITY

PS-L-2 – Condominium
FA 198.75 sqm
Residential/office unit; 3 rooms, 2TB, 1 parking slot
Unit SW R-144 Goldloop Towers, Amber Avenue, Ortigas Center
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,844,000**

### MARIKINA CITY

MAR-L-1 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 54.1 sqm FA 143 sqm
Residential/commercial townhouse unit, 1BR, 1TB existing w/ 2 unfinished
Unit 10 West Drive, Bo Bayanbayanan
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000**

### MANDALUYONG CITY

MAD-L-1 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 88.6 sqm FA 162 sqm
3-storey commercial unit garage
Unit 8 BSA Townhomes, JB Vargas St
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,880,000**

MAD-L-3 – Condominium (office)
FA 69.62 sqm
Bare unit
Unit 1003 Summit One Condominium, Shaw Boulevard (nearest corner - Old Wack-wack Road)
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,893,000**

MAD-L-4 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 74.25 sqm FA 190 sqm
Residential townhouse, 3BR, 3TB
Unit 26 BSA Townhomes, JB Vargas St
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,560,000**

### MAKATI CITY

MAK-L-5 – Condominium
FA 72.061 sqmResidential condo unit 2BR, 2TB
Unit 902 Praise Condominium, M. Santillan St
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,893,000**

MAK-L-6 – Condominium
FA 76.671 sqm
Residential condo unit 2BR, 2TB
Unit 903 Praise Condominium, M. Santillan St
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,013,000**

MAK-L-7 – Condominium
FA 190.043 sqm
Residential condo unit; 2 levels 2BR, 2TB
Unit 901-L & 901-U Praise Condominium
M. Santillan St
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,147,000**

MAK-L-21 – Condominium
FA 68.53 sqm
Office/residential condo; with parking slot
Unit 203 Southstar Plaza, Cityland 5, South Superhighway
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000**

MAK-L-22 – Condominium
FA 242.82 sqm
Residential condo, 4BR, 4TB
Units 1109 & 1110 Makati Cinema Square Condo, Pasong Tamo
**Min. Bid Price: P 6,605,000**

MAK-L-23 – Condominium
FA 67 sqm
Residential condo, 1BR, 1TB; with parking slot
Unit PI-2A (Unit 204) Midland Mansions, A. Arnaiz Avenue
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,144,000**

MAK-L-25 – Condominium
FA 127.39 sqm
Residential condo, 3BR, 3TB; with 2 parking slots
Unit 2406 Apha Salcedo Condo; HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village
**Min. Bid Price: P 7,705,000**

MAK-L-26 – Condominium (bare)
FA 149.7 sqm
Residential unit, open layout for construction, 3TB
Unit 407 Makati Cinema Square Tower, Pasong Tamo
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,935,000**

MAK-L-27 - House & Lot
LA 187 sqm FA 128 sqm
2-storey residential building, 2BR, 2TB
Lot 8 Block 3 No. 6734 Taylo St., Bgy Pio del Pilar
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,107,000**

### VALENZUELA CITY

VAL-L-3 - Townhouse / Apartment (unfinished)
LA 1,855 sqm FA 539 sqm
7 unit, 2 storey townhouse structure with large front yard less than 5 kms away from SM Marilao
Lot 1 Coloong 2 Bgy Coloong
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,054,000**

VAL-L-4 - House & Lot (unfinished)
LA 240 sqm FA 561 sqm
2 residential buildings -- bldg 1: 3-storey with 7BR and 5 BR; bldg 2: 2-storey with 5BR and 2TB
Lot 7 Blk23 San Francisco Subd., Tugatog
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000**

VAL-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 186 sqm FA 130 sqm
5BR, 2TB situated in middle-class neighborhood
#206 Galas St., Bo. Bignay
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,077,000**

VAL-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 2,346 sqm
Commercial lot within school campus
Interior M.H. del Pilar St., Malanday
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,139,000**

### MALABON

MAL-L-1 - House & Lot
LA 369 sqm FA 296 sqm
2-storey house, 4BR, 4TB, (w/ office and warehouse-type structure behind house) ideal for business which require a residential dorm for workers
63 Col. Espiritu St., Tenejeros
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,335,000**

MAL-L-2 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 299 sqm FA 1,149 sqm
3-storey com'l/res'l bldg w/ 20-door apartment and 3-door com'l frontage w/ roofdeck w/ basketball court; ideal for apt business w/ provision for landlord unit
134 MH Del Pilar Road, Santulan
**Min. Bid Price: P 8,588,000**

### CALOOCAN

CAL-V-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Residential lot very near Vicas Market & Camarin Road
Lot 7 Block 13 Congress Village, Bo. Bagumbong
**Min. Bid Price: P 704,000**

### BULACAN

BUL-L-11 - Farm Lot
LA 5,765 sqm
Area for piggery, poultry, agricultural and bungalow w/ 2BR, 1TB
#293 Km 38 Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,214,000**

BUL-L-12 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 279 sqm FA 616 sqm
3-storey apartment bldg., partially finished 5 min. away from SM Marilao via pedicab
L3 B2 Soriente St., Soriente Subd., Tugatog Meycauayan
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000**

BUL-L-13 - House & Lot
LA 856 sqm FA 305 sqm
Split level house, 7BR, 7TB, w/ swimming pool at the back w/ underground secret passageway
1029 Libis St., Saluysoy, Meycauayan
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,500,000**

BUL-L-14 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 299 sqm FA 539 sqm
3-storey semi-finished apartment bldg. w/ provisions for mixed res'l/com'l use
Blk 2 Lot 2 Soriente St., Bo Caingin, Meycauayan
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000**

BUL-L-15 - House & Lot
LA 1,200 sqm FA 170 sqm
Single detached house, 4BR, 2TB
Lot 770-A-10-B Gravador Road, Bo. San Jose Patag, Sta Maria
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,900,000**

BUL-V-10 - Vacant Lot (5 Vacant lots (Lot 13 to 17 Block 7)
L13 B7=278 sqm; L14 B7= 266 sqm; L15 B7= 296 sqm; L16 B7= 304 sqm, and, L17 B7= 284 sqm
Richmond Subd., Bahay Pare, Meycauayan
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,499,000**

BUL-V-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 659 sqm
2 plots of vacant subdivision lots
Lots 28 & 29 Blk 3 Mahogany St., Green Plains, Calumpit
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,286,000**

BUL-V-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 1,268 sqm
Adjoining vacant lots secured by concrete hollow block wall
Blk. 4 Lot 1, 2 & 3 Ma. Magdalena Subd., San Juan, Balagtas
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,876,000**

### QUEZON CITY

QC-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 240 sqm FA 836 sqm
3-stry house, 5BR, 3TB
Lot 4 Block 136 Celosia St., Del Nacia 4 Tandang Sora
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,358,000**

QC-L-5 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 300 sqm FA 339 sqm
2-stry house, 3BR, 2TB
42-B Mayor A. Rodriguez Ave., Tandang Sora
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,872,000**

QC-L-6 - Townhouse / Apartment
FA 168 sqm
2-stry townhouse, 3BR, 2TB
Unit B-10 Verde Royale Townhomes, Pluto St., Bahay Toro
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,092,000**

QC-L-7 - Townhouse / Apartment
FA 230.61sqm
3-stry townhouse (w/ attic), 4BR, 4TB
Unit 10 Capitol Golf Townhomes, Capitol Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,300,000**

QC-L-8 - Townhouse / Apartment
FA 190.52 sqm
2-stry townhouse (w/ attic), 4BR, 3TB
Unit 26 Capitol Golf Townhomes ,Capitol Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,001,000**

QC-L-11 – Condominium
FA 76.8 sqm
Studio-type com'l unit w/ assigned parking slot
Unit A-214 Hillcrest Condominium, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Cubao
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,229,000**

QC-L-12 – Condominium
FA 60.37 sqm
Res'l condo 3BR, 2TB
Unit 1005 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,739,000**

QC-L-13 – Condominium
FA 34.63 sqm
Studio-type com'l condo No parking slot
Unit 109 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,159,000**

QC-L-14 – Condominium
FA 44.43 sqm
Studio-type com'l condo w/ 1TB No parking slot
Unit 110 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,486,000**

QC-L-15 – Condominium
FA 44.43 sqm
Studio-type com'l condo w/ 1TB. No parking slot
Unit 111 Regalia Park Tower, P. Tuazon St., Cubao
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,486,000**

### PASAY CITY

PAS-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 557 sqm
Lots 11, 14, 17, & 20 Block 23, Mariquita St
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,219,000**

### PARAÑAQUE CITY

PAR-L-5 - House & Lot
LA 493 sqm FA 271.44 sqm
2-storey house, 4BR, 2TB
No. 12 Rome cor. Naples Sts., Merville Park Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,320,000**

PAR-L-6 - House & Lot
LA 400 sqm FA 367 sqm
2-storey house, 6BR, 4TB
No. 9 Teheran St., Merville Park Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,069,000**

PAR-L-9 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 60 sqm FA 128 sqm
2-storey townhouse, 2BR, 2TB
Daang Batang cor. Las Casas de Manila
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,844,000**

PAR-L-10 – Condominium
FA 172.69 sqm
Res'l condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 702 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,723,000**

PAR-L-11 – Condominium
FA 164.62 sqm
Res'l condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 703 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,905,000**

PAR-L-14 – Condominium
FA 198 sqm
Res'l condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 1401 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,467,000**

PAR-L-15 – Condominium
FA 167 sqm
Res'l condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 604 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,668,000**

PAR-L-16 – Condominium
FA 95.15 sqm
Res'l condo, 2BR, 2TB
Unit 903, 9/F Chateau de Baie Condo, Roxas Blvd., Brgy Baclaran
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,300,000**

PAR-L-18 – Condominium
FA 196 sqm
Res'l condo, 2BR, 2TB; 1 parking slot
Unit 1801 Pacific Coast Plaza, 1st Villamar St., Tambo
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,783,000**

PAR-L-20 - House & Lot (2 lots)
LA 310 sqm FA 168 sqm
Bungalow, second lot is 310 sqm vacant lot
No. 11 Monterey St., Merville Park Subd.
**Min. Bid Price: P4,650,000**

PAR-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 534 sqm
Residential lot
Lot 5 Block 25 Road 9-H, United Parañaque Subd., Phase V, Bo. San Dionisio
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,538,000**

### MUNTINLUPA

MUN-L-1 - House & Lot
LA 240 sqm FA 328 sqm
2-storey house w/ 8BR & 4TB
Lot 20 Block 25 General Capinpin St., Soldiers Hills
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,594,000**

MUN-L-2 - House & Lot
LA 500 sqm FA 621sqm
3-storey house w/ 7BR & 5TB
Lot 13 Block 8 San Bernardino St.
Susana Heights Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,253,000**

MUN-V-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 524 sqm
Lot 9 Block 19 Greenwich St., Hillsborough Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 9,930,000**

### LAS PIÑAS

LP-L-4 - House & Lot
LA 280 sqm FA 581 sqm
3-storey house w/ 8BR & 5TB
Lot 19 Block 25 Peking St., BF Homes
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,651,000**

LP-L-10 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 150 sqm FA 92 sqm
2-storey townhouse w/ 3BR & 2TB
Lot 22 Block 62 Rumulus St., La Segovia, BF Resort
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,242,000**

LP-L-11 - Townhouse / Apartment
LA 277 sqm FA 312 sqm
2-storey 3-door apartment
Lot 3 Block 4 Fimlers Ave. cor. Mojica St., Remarville-Sterling Subd
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,937,000**

### LAGUNA

L-L-110 - House & Lot
LA 150 sqm FA 144 sqm
2-storey house
Lot 28 Block 5 Bel-Air St., St. Francis Subd., Biñan
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,146,000**

L-L-111 - House & Lot
LA 302 sqm FA 116.38 sqm
House w/ 5BR, 3TB
Lots 3 & 4 Block 2 Ramirez Avenue, Cataquiz I Subd., San Pedro
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,977,000**

L-L-113 - House & Lot
LA 199 sqm FA 184 sqm
One-storey house w/ 5BR & 2TB
Lot 20 Block 2, Phase 1, Albatros cor. Chikadee St., Pacita Complex II, San Pedro
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,480,000**

L-L-114 - House & Lot
LA 300 sqm FA 659 sqm
3-storey house (hotel type of building) w/ 18BR & 16TB
Lots 5 & 6 Block 25 Villa Toledo San Lorenzo South Sta. Rosa
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,800,000**

L-V-50 - Vacant Lot
LA 460 sqm
Lot 4 Block 12, Apitong St., Ceris II Subd., Canlubang Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,150,000**

### CAVITE

C-L-106 - House & Lot
LA 389 sqm FA 184 sqm
1-storey house w/ 3BR & 2TB
No. 230 Orchids St., Sarapdon Subd.
Bo. Pag-asa III, Imus
**Min. Bid Price: P 983,000**

C-L-120 - House & Lot
LA 1,1812 sqm FA 193 sqm
1-storey house w/ 2BR & 2TB
No. 167 Toclong 1, Brgy. Toclong, Imus
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,329,000**

C-L-121 - House & Lot
LA 160 sqm FA 51.5 sqm
1-storey house w/ 2BR & 1TB
Lot 24 Block 4 Ivory St., Springville North, Bacoor
**Min. Bid Price: P 621,000**

C-V-E10 - Vacant Lot
LA 465 sqm
Lot 69 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,312,200**

C-V-E11 - Vacant Lot
LA 595 sqm
Lot 41 Block 6 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,600,500**

C-V-E12 - Vacant Lot
LA 499 sqm
Lot 67 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,392,210**

C-V-E13 - Vacant Lot
LA 593 sqm
Lot 68 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,654,470**

C-V-E14 - Vacant Lot
LA 595 sqm
Lot 66 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,609,200**

C-V-E15 - Vacant Lot
LA 512 sqm
Lot 70 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,428,480**

C-V-E16 - Vacant Lot
LA 545 sqm
Lot 67 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,471,500**

C-V-E17 - Vacant Lot
LA 479 sqm
Lot 1 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,007,100**

C-V-E18 - Vacant Lot
Lot 63 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,207,080**

C-V-E19 - Vacant Lot
LA 576 sqm
Lot 1 Block 94 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,608,680**

C-V-E20 - Vacant Lot
Lot 17 Block 7 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,350,360**

C-V-E21 - Vacant Lot
LA 491 sqm
Lot 71 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,369,890**

C-V-E22 - Vacant Lot
LA 555 sqm
Lot 65 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,498,500**

C-V-E23 - Vacant Lot
LA 731 sqm
Lot 104 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,973,700**

C-V-E24 - Vacant Lot
LA 314 sqm
Lot 2 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 791,280**

C-V-E25 - Vacant Lot
LA 554 sqm
Lot 2 Block 94 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,346,220**

C-V-E26 - Vacant Lot
LA 587 sqm
Lot 71 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,584,900**

C-V-E27 - Vacant Lot
LA 483 sqm
Lot 70 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,304,100**

C-V-E28 - Vacant Lot
LA 376 sqm
Lot 7 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 947,520**

C-V-E29 - Vacant Lot
LA 429 sqm
Lot 3 Block 94 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,042,470**

C-V-E30 - Vacant Lot
LA 801 sqm
Lot 82 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,306,880**

C-V-E31 - Vacant Lot
LA 509 sqm
Lot 69 Block 75 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,374,300**

C-V-E32 - Vacant Lot
LA 736 sqm
Lot 1 Block 17 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,987,200**

C-V-E33 - Vacant Lot
LA 378 sqm
Lot 12 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 952,560**

C-V-E34 - Vacant Lot
LA 552 sqm
Lot 69 Block 8 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,540,080**

C-V-E35 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 5 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,008,000**

C-V-E36 - Vacant Lot
LA 465 sqm
Lot 4 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,171,800**

C-V-E37 - Vacant Lot
LA 414 sqm
Lot 3 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,043,280**

C-V-E38 - Vacant Lot
LA 341 sqm
Lot 10 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 859,320**

C-V-E39 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 6 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,008,000**

C-V-E40 - Vacant Lot
LA 299 sqm
Lot 11 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 753,480**

C-V-E41 - Vacant Lot
LA 376 sqm
Lot 8 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 947,520**

C-V-E42 - Vacant Lot
LA 341 sqm
Lot 9 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 859,320**

C-V-E43 - Vacant Lot
LA 680 sqm
Lot 2 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,836,000**

C-V-E44 - Vacant Lot
LA 734 sqm
Lot 3 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,981,800**

C-V-E45 - Vacant Lot
LA 496 sqm
Lot 26 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,339,200**

C-V-E46 - Vacant Lot
LA 451 sqm
Lot 4 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,217,700**

C-V-E47 - Vacant Lot
LA 453 sqm
Lot 24 Block 27 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: 1,223,100**

C-V-E48 - Vacant Lot
LA 477 sqm
Lot 13 Block 70 Eagle Ridge Estates, General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,287,900**

C-V-101 - Vacant Lot
LA 276 sqm
Lot 8 Bock 31, Uniwide Coastal City, Dreamland Subd., Bo. Timalan, Naic
**Min. Bid Price: P 414,000**

C-V-106 - Vacant Lot
LA 230 sqm
Lot 25 Block 108 Nevada St. Metrosouth Subd., General Trias
**Min. Bid Price: P 489,000**

C-V-108 - Vacant Lot
LA 200sqm
Lot 6 Block 28 Town & Country Subd., Dasmariñas
**Min. Bid Price: P 450,000**

C-V-109 - Vacant Lot
Lot 7 Block 28 Town & Country Subd.., Dasmariñas
**Min. Bid Price: P 450,000**

C-V-110 - Vacant Lot
LA 200 sqm
Lot 8 Block 28 Town & Country Subd., Dasmariñas
**Min. Bid Price: P 450,000**

C-V-120 - Vacant Lot
LA 458 sqm
Lot 17 Block 1, Grand Cypress St., The Manila Southwoods Subd., Carmona
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,649,000**

C-V-121 - Vacant Lot
LA 640 sqm
Lot 2854-B-5 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez
**Min. Bid Price: P 896,000**

C-V-122 - Vacant Lot
LA 600 sqm
Lot 2854-B-2 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez
**Min. Bid Price: P 840,000**

C-V-123 - Vacant Lot
LA 400 sqm
Lot 11 Block 4 Milat Road, Orchard Golf & Country Club, Phase 4, Brgy. Salitran, Dasmariñas
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,080,000**

C-V-126 - Vacant Lot
Lot 18 Block 2, Phase 1, The Manila Southwoods, Carmona
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# Reyes evasive on controversial mining project in Nueva Vizcaya

BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes on Tuesday evaded questions on the controversy hounding the planned mining project by an Australian firm in Kasibu town.

In a press conference here, Reyes declined to answer reporters' questions on unresolved issues in the proposed Didipio gold-copper project—its rejection by tribal communities and the border dispute between Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino provinces.

The Didipio project is being proposed by Australasian Philippine Mining Inc. (Apmi), which is among the 23 ventures that the Arroyo administration tagged as priority projects in the mining sector.

## Endorsement

Reyes was asked why the government continued to push Apmi's operations despite the company's failure to obtain the endorsement by local communities, a requirement in its environmental compliance certificate (ECC).

The area was also being contested by Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino, in apparent anticipation of the taxes and other revenues that the host province would get from the planned mining operations.

Local antimining advocates lamented Reyes' hesitation to address the issues, saying it was an indication that he was not aware of the controversies surrounding the project.

"As the highest official of the DENR, everybody expects him to know all these issues. This added to our amazement when a high-ranking DENR official even asked where Didipio is," said Sr. Maria Eden Orlino, directress, of the Diocesan Social Action Commission, a Church-based non-government organization.

Reyes, however, asked Apmi board chair Jose Leviste and DENR regional director Clarence Baguilat to answer the reporters' questions.

## Rejected

Leviste said the project had been earlier endorsed by a bloc of village officials, but the decision was overturned by a new set of Didipio officials, most of whom are opposing the operations of the company.

The project's ECC says it must obtain at least two endorsements from village, town or provincial councils.

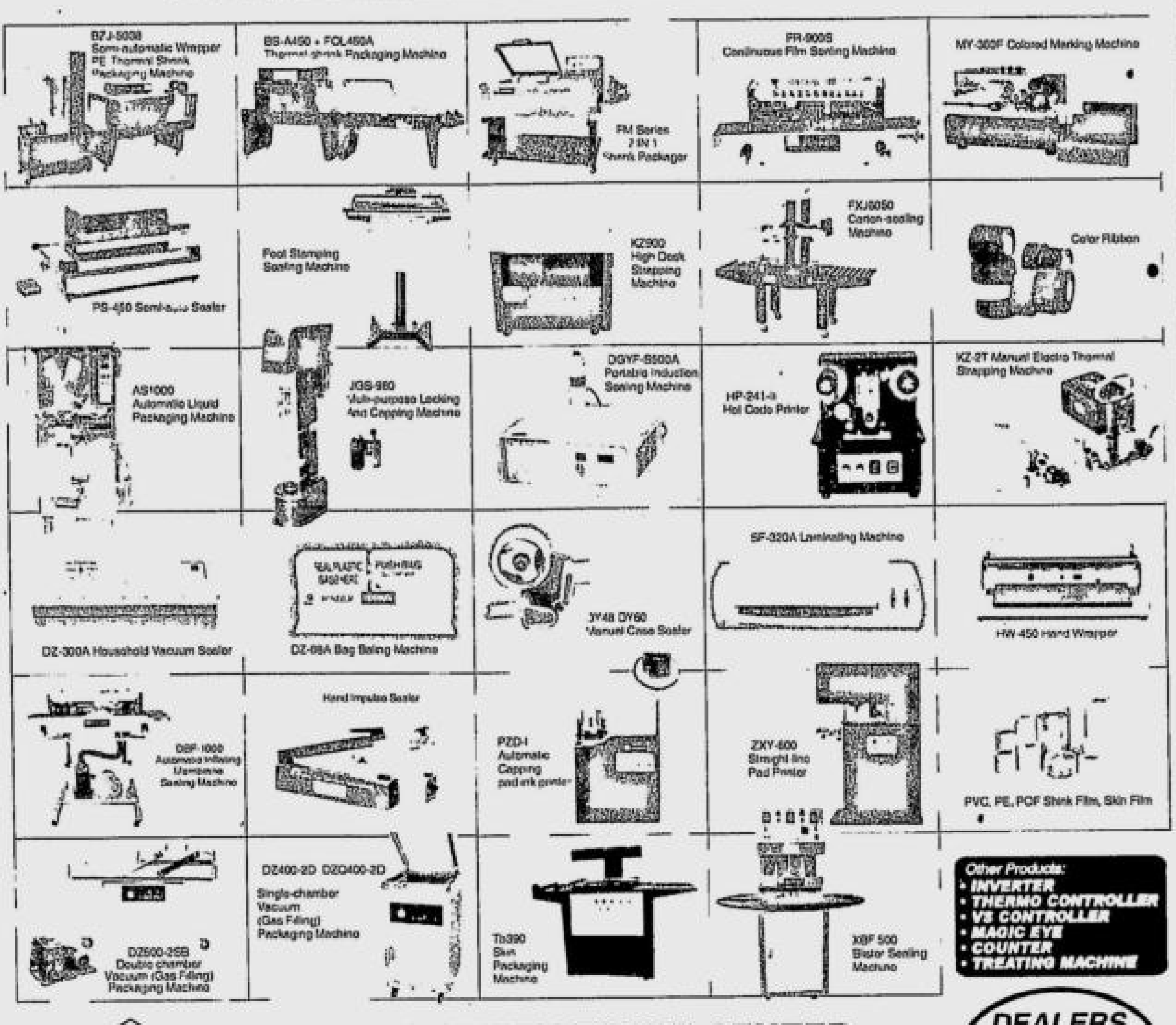
Last year, the Apmi project was rejected by the barangay council of Didipio and the municipal council of Kasibu.

While admitting that a boundary dispute between Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino has remained an issue, Baguilat said the matter would be left to the two provinces to resolve.

"[Settling boundary disputes] is not part of our work," he said.

Reyes on Tuesday led the launching of the DENR's Green Philippine Highways at the Nueva Vizcaya State University here. The project is aimed at regreening the roadsides of about 2,180 km of the country's national highways.

*Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon*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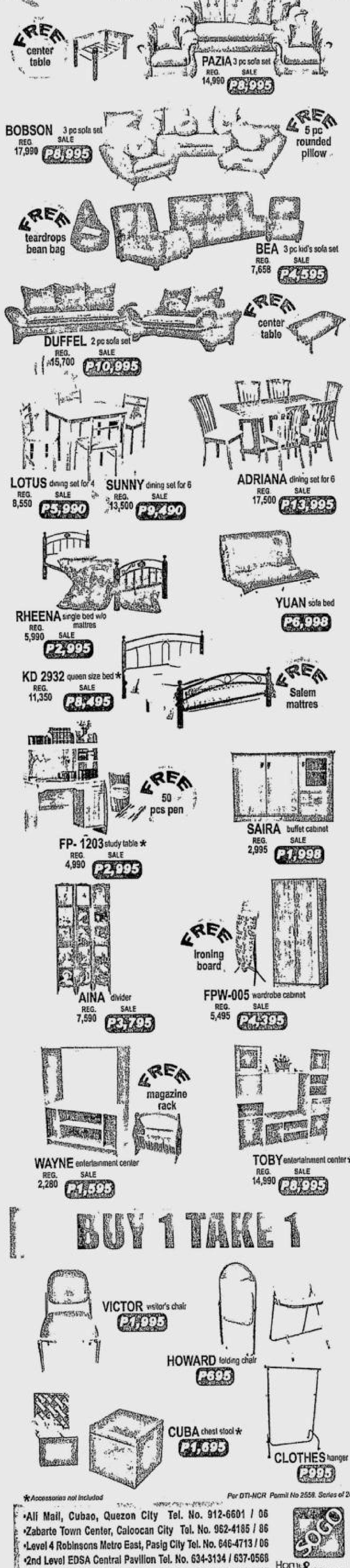
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# Cordillera execs push regional autonomy

BAGUIO CITY—ADVERTISEMENTS pushing for constitutional amendments have started flooding public television, but they will soon compete for air time in Baguio, which will also air advertising pitches for Cordillera autonomy.

Before Charter changes take effect, the region's leaders are making last-ditch efforts to implement Charter provisions guaranteeing an autonomous Cordillera, as well as the constitutional policy respecting indigenous peoples' rights and property.

Article 10 of the 1987 Constitution prescribes the creation of autonomous regions in the Cordillera and Muslim Mindanao.

Leon Dacanay, Cordillera deputy director of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said his group was undertaking a campaign to raise awareness about the region's constitutionally recognized uniqueness through forums, radio discussions and ad blitzes.

Members of the Regional Development Council believed they had President Macapagal-Arroyo's permission to push regional autonomy when she referred to the advocacy in her State of the Nation Address, he said.

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri also authorized the injection of a P33-million allocation in the 2007 General Appropriations Act to finance a continuing information campaign, Dacanay said.

He said Neda has asked the University of the Philippines Baguio, as well as other Baguio universities, to conduct a survey to determine public pulse on a separate autonomous Cordillera in anticipation of Ms Arroyo's preference for a constitutional shift to a federal government run by parliament.

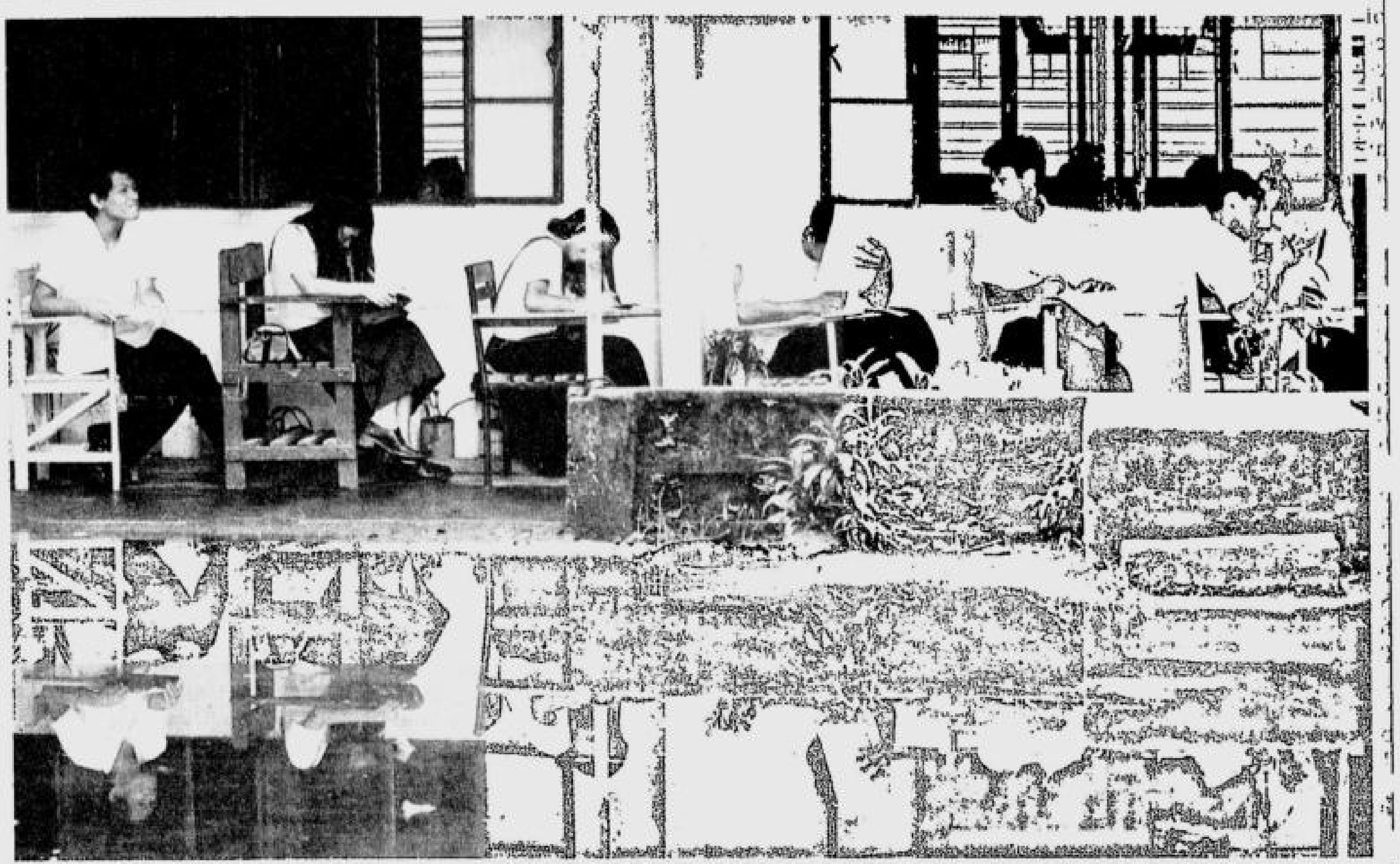
Cordillera voters rejected two proposed laws on autonomy in the 1990 and 1998 referendums. Only the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is operating according to the constitutional provision.

Mountain Province Gov. Maximo Dalog, RDC chair, said the Cordillera "missed the opportunities when we rejected autonomy in two referendums," and are paying for it with poor economic growth.

A third referendum is the key because achieving autonomy also means financial independence for Cordillera provinces that still rely on their internal revenue allotments to survive, Dalog said.

Included in the autonomy initiative is a government campaign to hasten the release of ancestral land and ancestral domain titles.

*Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



**EXAM TIME AT MAYON**

EDWIN BACASMAS

**Students take their first periodical examinations outside their classroom at the Gogon Central School in Legazpi City in Albay. The school remains an evacuation center for residents affected by Mayon volcano's unrest.**

# DENR allays fears on approved forest contract

LUCENA CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon have allayed fears of environmentalist groups that the Malacañang-reinstated forest management contract would lead to the destruction of the Sierra Madre.

"Before TFPI (Timberland Forest Products Inc.) can start actual operation, it should first undergo the required public hearing to get the side of the community. The operation is still a long way to go," Antonio Diwa, the community environment and natural resources officer based in Real town, told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Diwa said a lot of documents must be submitted for approval before any forest management activities could be started.

"The company would still need to submit an environmental compliance certificate and resource management plans, among many other voluminous papers," he stressed.

He clarified that it was not the DENR that reinstated the controversial forestry contract of the logging company owned by Bulacan logger Wilson Ng.

"It was a Malacañang decision. My office has nothing to do with it," Diwa said.

He vowed to strictly monitor the activities of TFPI once it started operations.

"That Ifma will not be an instrument nor will it be an avenue for any illegal logging activities. The company should strictly follow the terms and conditions specified in the contract," Diwa said.

An Ifma is a contract entered into by the DENR and a qualified person to occupy and possess, in consideration of a specified rental, any forest land of the public domain to establish an industrial forest plantation.

There are two types of Ifma. One allows companies to plant and harvest trees in production forest while the other allows firms to cut trees in partially denuded areas before trees are planted.

"It's one form of selective logging. An Ifma holder is allowed to cut mature, over-mature and defective trees inside the production forest but at the same time, they are also mandated to plant forest trees," Diwa explained.

Environmentalist groups in Quezon protested when they learned on Thursday from a DENR regional official that Ng's Ifma contract covering more than 36,000 hectares of land in Sierra Madre inside the province territorial jurisdiction had been approved with finality by an unidentified Palace official.

The Ifma has long been opposed by residents and local officials of Real, Infanta and General Nakar towns.

The 25-year Ifma was granted to Ng on Nov. 12, 2002, when Heherson Alvarez was then environment secretary.

Alvarez's successor, Elisea Gozun, revoked the Ifma on Jan. 13, 2004 on grounds that "fraud, misrepresentation and omission of material facts" allegedly surrounded the contract.

Based on DENR records, TFPI's Ifma was reinstated by the Office of the President on March 4, 2005, four months after the tragic flash floods and landslides in the three Quezon towns.

But the Palace held back its implementation after it was met with a howl of protest.

The left-wing fishermen alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) urged Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to disclose the identities of alleged Malacañang officials behind the reinstatement of TFPI's forestry contract.

"This is unfair to 1,000 farmers and fishermen who were killed by flash floods and landslides resulting from the environmental disaster in 2004 brought about by large-scale logging in Sierra Madre," Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement sent to the INQUIRER. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

# Cotabato City warns delinquent taxpayers

COTABATO CITY—A total of 264 delinquent taxpayers risk losing their real properties if they don't pay on time.

City Treasurer Cleotilde San Luis said owners of the real property, mostly residential lots, owed the city government P2,480,019.65 in unpaid taxes, including surcharges from penalties.

Mayor Muslimin Sema has caused the publication of names of delinquent taxpayers and the corresponding amounts due them.

Citing a provision of the Local Government Code of 1991, Sema said "the notice of delinquency shall also be published... in a newspaper of general circulation."

## Reminder

The questioned real properties "will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder," the mayor added.

San Luis told the INQUIRER that the public auction of the untaxed properties could be held in October.

Councilor Wilfrido Bueno wondered about the appearance of delinquent persons/entities on the local tabloid The Mindanao Cross when some of them were considered "affluent" personalities in the community.

"Even the state-run Development Bank of the Philippines that owes the city more than P4,000 for a residential property, is included in the list," Bueno said of City Hall's warning.

The tax delinquency could be due to the present socio-economic difficulties encountered by poor and even middle-class earners, he said.

But for others, including some of those in the watch list, the publication is just a reminder to those with tax obligations to settle, San Luis said. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

# ROUNDUP

## Brownouts in Lipa

LIPA CITY—Rehabilitation of lines connecting to a proposed mall in the city has prompted the Batangas Electric Cooperative II (Batelec II) to reduce power supply in the city, resulting in at least two brownouts weekly from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to Zaida Masangkay, an official of Batelec II. Masangkay said new power substations were expected to be put up later this month. Transactions in government offices, which do not have generators, were adversely affected, said Ronaldo de Castro, city personnel manager.

*Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

## Women's jail conditions

CITY OF CALAPAN—Female inmates at the Oriental Mindoro Provincial Jail, most of whom have been charged with drug offenses, need help, said Edna Madrigal, chair of Lakas ng Kababaihan sa Calapan. Madrigal told the Provincial Care Multisectoral Council forum that the eight double-deck beds available were used by 16 inmates while the remaining 15 slept on cardboard on the floor. Whenever it rains, the floor is flooded. The toilet needs major repair, Madrigal added.

*Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

## Care council forums

CITY OF CALAPAN—This city and all towns in Oriental Mindoro now have multisectoral care council forums, which will try to resolve issues referred by concerned agencies or individuals, according to Bishop Warlito Cajandig. A representative from the second district will sit in the Provincial Care Council Forum, which will meet every first Thursday of the month at the bishop's residence. Priests were tasked with facilitating the local forums.

*Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

## Saltwater intrusion probe

CITY OF CALAPAN—A nongovernment organization has asked the provincial government to investigate saltwater intrusion into the groundwater supply here. Tita de Guzman, director of Mahal, expressed alarm over the overextraction of water by operators, saying it would take thousands of years before groundwater sources could recover from such condition. De Guzman decried reports that documents filed by her group in its complaint filed at the National Water Regulatory Board had been lost.

*Madonna Virola, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

## 2 hurt in grenade blast

COTABATO CITY—At least two persons were injured when a grenade exploded outside a videoke house along Bonifacio Street here last week, city police spokesperson Senior Insp. Samson Obatay said. Obatay said investigation showed that Zalika Mulod and Jerry Payag, both residents of this city, went out of the videoke house around 10:15 p.m. on Aug. 7 because of a power outage. Suddenly, an explosion occurred a few meters from where they were standing. Mulod, who had shrapnel wounds in the head, legs and body, managed the family-owned beer house while Payag worked as a bartender. Police were still determining the motive for the attack.

*Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

## 3 NPA rebels killed

DAVAO CITY—Three suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed during a gun battle with government forces in Sitio Darot in Barangay Panamin in Mabini, Compostela Valley. Maj. Jose Cuerpo, chief of the military's Civil Relations Group in Southern Mindanao, said the Aug. 7 clash started when soldiers on patrol chanced upon 10 guerrillas at around 12:30 p.m. Cuerpo said the bodies of the slain rebels had been recovered but remained unidentified. They were brought to the Maco municipal hall. He said the soldiers recovered assorted firearms, ammunition and explosives, including a Claymore mine.

*Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

## Mandaue school expansion

THE JESUIT-RUN Sacred Heart School of Cebu recently launched the construction of three main buildings in its 10-hectare property in Canduman District, Mandaue City. The buildings will house the high school, grade school, and a chapel. Smaller structures include a cafeteria and covered courts. The blessing of the cornerstone was officiated by Bishop Julio Cortes, with Fr. Ernesto Javier, school director, and Fr. Daniel Huang, provincial superior of the Jesuits in the Philippines attending. Also present was Victor Chiongbian, chair of the board of trustees. The new buildings were scheduled for completion in time for next school year's opening. The school was established in 1953 at the request of the Catholic Chinese community in Cebu. Later, it opened its doors to non-Chinese Filipinos.

## Advisory on hog virus

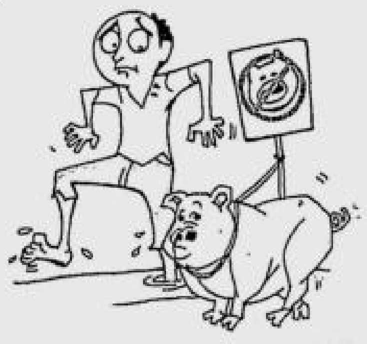


ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

BACOLOD CITY—Biosecurity measures in farms are being strengthened in Negros Occidental in view of the reported outbreak of the corona virus in hogs in Luzon, Gov. Joseph Marañon said. An advisory, issued by Provincial Veterinarian Renante Decena, also urged the enforcement of quarantine laws, rules and regulations at all sea and air entry points into the province. It bars the entry of live hogs, meat and byproducts from Luzon and requires persons entering the province to step on foot baths at the ports. Decena warned against the introduction of any vaccine in a farm against diseases that are not endemic to the province.

*Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

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Per DTI Permit # 2822 Series of 2006

# Repeat nursing exam, Baguio group asked

BAGUIO CITY—OFFICIALS of the Philippine Nurses Association have asked nursing license applicants who took the June board examinations to voluntarily repeat the test and ease the crisis brought about by reports of exam cheating.

The PNA and the Association of Deans of Philippine Nursing Colleges urged the 92 examinees, who exposed the cheating that took place in Baguio during the exams, to take the lead so they could "clean up the mess" that the government would not touch.

Speaking at a Friday forum organized for Baguio-based examinees, Dr. Fe Marilyn Lorenzo, director of the Institute for Health Policy Development Studies at the National Institute for Health (NIH), said three Philippine hospitals and American employers had already advised PNA that they would not be hiring nurses who took the June tests.

## Resigned

Lorenzo was the chair of the Commission of Higher Education's technical committee on nursing education who resigned recently over CHEd's supposed "unwillingness" to cushion the problem.

She said the latest monitoring conducted by PNA and various nursing schools reveal that the country may soon be oversupplying the world labor market with nurses, when traditional employers like the United States and Europe are starting to solve the labor and manpower problems in their health care systems.

She said the original projection that overseas demand for Philippine nurses will peak at 2015 may no longer be reasonable.

She said the government's response to the scandal had been unsatisfactory, so it was up to the examinees "to make the supreme sacrifice by retaking the examination" to remove the blemish "that would haunt them forever."

The Professional Regulation Commission has turned down this option for resolving the crisis "because they have no budget," Lorenzo said.

"If you passed the first time, there's a statistical chance you'll do better the second time ... Pay the P900 exam fee again. What will you lose?" she said.

Vernon Peralta, spokesperson of the 92 examinees, said he was shocked by the proposal.

Peralta, who passed the exams, said such a sacrifice would not be easy to accept because the government has not yet punished the culprits.

He asked the Baguio nursing schools and officials of the PNA to instead plead their case before their potential employees.

## No cheating

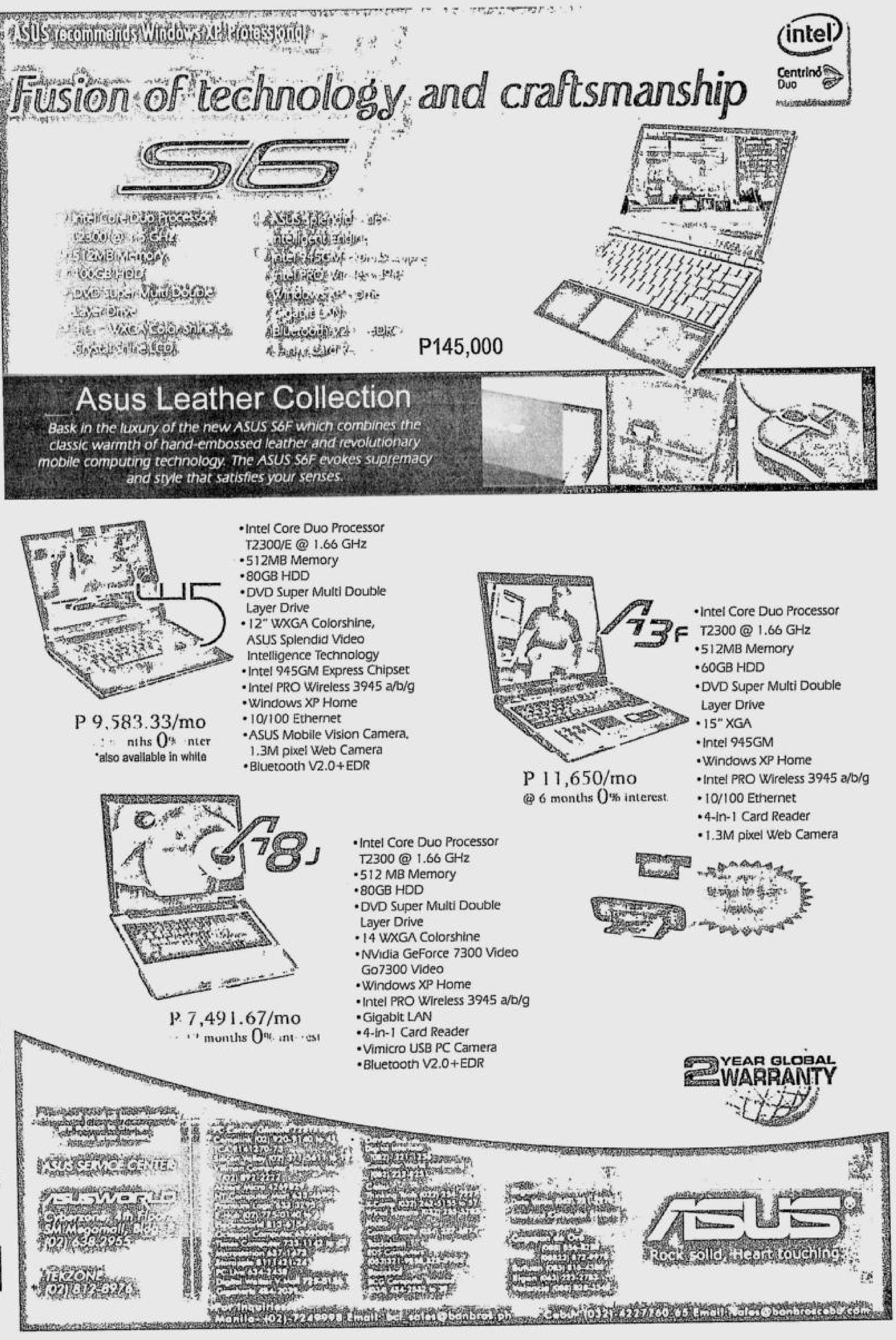
He said that until a "mastermind" was caught, no examinee from the 2006 batch could be assured that no cheating would again take place.

Only 18 of the 92 nursing license applicants who exposed the cheating failed the exams.

The applicants earlier asked the PRC to suspend the members of the Board of Nursing and to seek an impartial fact finding team to probe the scandal.

The PRC eventually admitted that cheating had occurred, but it only recommended the filing of negligence charges against two nursing board members for misplacing copies of their raw test questions. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

**THE FACES** of Baguio's nurses, nursing students and board examinees reveal dismay, shock, and disbelief when told that nullifying the June exams to rescue the nursing industry is the only way to ease the country's crisis. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON



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# 2 Army officials cleared of charges

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*Inquirer Visayas*

BACOLOD CITY—TWO MILITARY OFFICIALS and Army intelligence agents in Negros Occidental were cleared of charges that they illegally detained a suspected rebel officer and his companion in May.

Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Arles of Kabankalan City ruled that he found no basis to hold Brig. Gen. Gerry Jalandoni, Lt. Col. Norman Flores and their intelligence officers responsible for the abduction on May 28 of Roberto Marapo and Dionelo Borres in Barangay Andolawan, Ilog, Negros Occidental.

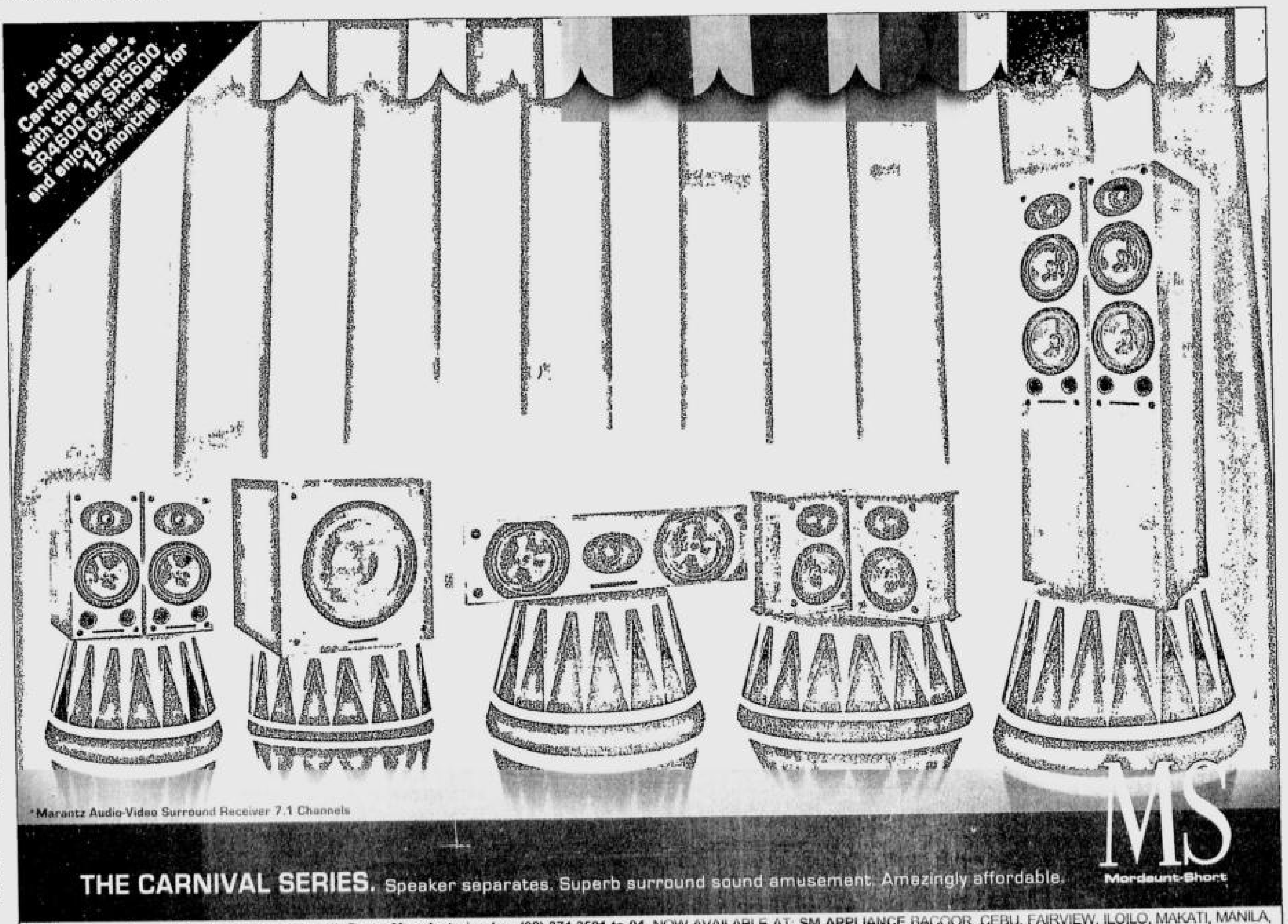
Jalandoni, former head of the 303rd Infantry Brigade based in Murcia, and Lt. Col. Norman Flores, head of the 61st Infantry Battalion based in Cauyan, and their intelligence officers were named respondents in a petition for habeas corpus filed by relatives of Marapo, tagged by the military as commander of the New People's Army Larangang Gerilya 3, and his companion Borres.

In his order dated July 14 but released on Aug. 9, Arles said the petitioners were unable to establish that the military officers and personnel ever detained or restrained Marapo and Borres.

The petition had alleged that Marapo and Borres, who were riding in tandem on a yellow motorcycle, were blocked by a white-silver van and forcibly taken by four persons, two of them wearing bonnets and allegedly intelligence agents of the 61st IB.

Policemen found the motorcycle abandoned in the middle of the road in Barangay Andolawan, Ilog. Marapo and Borres have not been seen since.

Jalandoni and Flores had both denied involvement in the alleged abduction. They noted that the allegations were not supported by any affidavit of witnesses.



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MAYON evacuees (from left) Joy Nuñez, 8 and Ralph Gerald Nunez, 6, carry water and food from their house in Barangay Matanag near the Boyuan channel on their way back to the evacuation center in Legazpi City, Albay. EDWIN BACASMAS

# Mayon now 'most dangerous'

LEGAZPI CITY—SEARING GAS AND DEBRIS raced down Mayon's slope as the volcano entered its most dangerous phase after weeks of ejecting lava and ash, a scientist said yesterday.

The burst of pyroclastic flow on Saturday marked the first time Mayon shot out fast-moving hot gas and rock fragments after weeks of showing signs of a major eruption, said Ed Laguerta, resident volcanologist of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs)-Bicol.

"This is really the dangerous phase," Laguerta said. "We're not worried much with lava flows because they're slow-moving, but pyroclastic flows travel at such high velocity and could destroy almost everything on its path."

Blistering gas and volcanic debris could travel at least 60 kph, he added.

## Ash explosions

Volcanologists advised the public not to be complacent as recent explosions, one of which produced a pyroclastic flow, showed no waning in Mayon's activity.

Phivolcs recorded four ash explosions over the past 24-hour observation period, one of which occurred at 4:13 p.m. on Saturday and produced a pyroclastic flow that swept the southeastern and eastern slopes of Mayon volcano.

The pyroclastic materials, which flowed 4 km from the crater, were deposited between Buyuan Channel in Legazpi City and Basud Channel in Sto. Domingo.

A "ground-hogging" phenomenon, the hot materials consisting of ash and small rock fragments, had a high velocity of 60 km per hour and a temperature of not less than 300 degrees Celsius, Laguerta said.

Locally known as *oson*, these pyroclastic materials, spewed by Mayon during the 1993 eruption, are hazardous and fatal.

## Unilateral ceasefire

Authorities had ordered the mandatory evacuation of people within the volcano's danger zone, and more than 42,000 people had been moved to temporary shelters, mostly school buildings in Albay province.

The National Democratic Front-Bicol, meanwhile, declared a unilateral ceasefire in areas covered by the 15-km radius from Mayon's crater, said its spokesperson Greg Bañares in a mobile phone statement.

The ceasefire aims to provide safe conditions for effective evacuation and relief operations for residents affected by the restive volcano.

Bañares said the ceasefire would take effect until the alert level was lowered.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes ordered the Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office in Bicol to prepare for the impact of Mayon's eruption on newly reforested areas around it.

The DENR learned that more than 166,000 trees would perish when Mayon erupts and spews its pyroclastic materials.

Reyes said 125 hectares of two DENR reforestation sites in Malilipot town in Albay could be affected.

## Classroom repair

Education Secretary Jesli Lapus ordered the renovation of dilapidated classrooms being used as evacuation centers for residents near Mayon.

Lapus also ordered the release of P1 million for the immediate repairs of the classrooms. *Ephraim Aguilar and Niño Jesus Orbeta, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Norman Bordadora, Alcuin Papa, AFP and AP*

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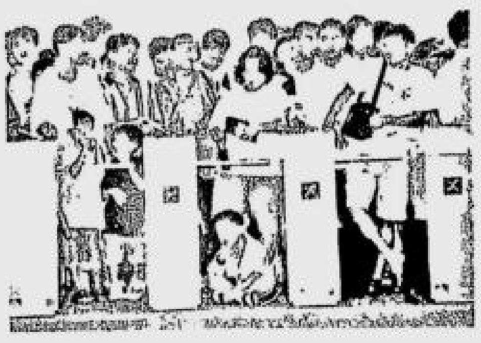

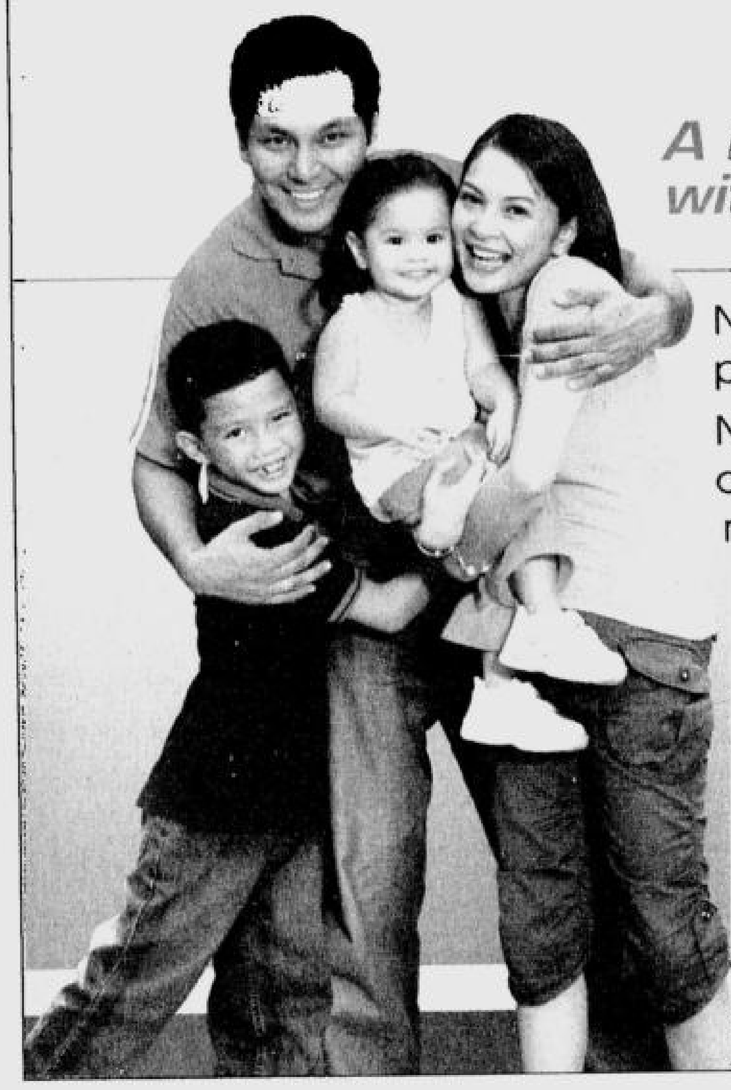

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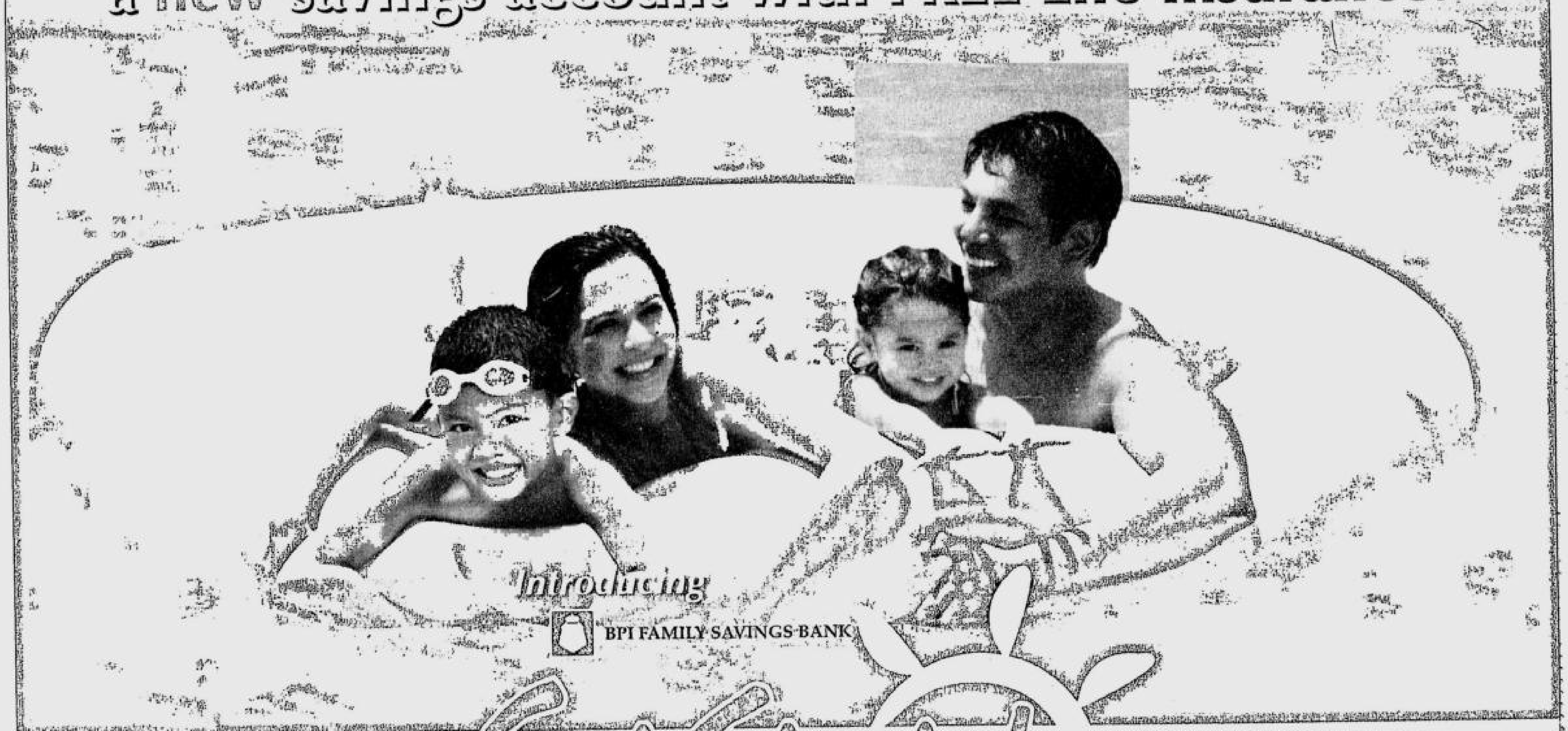

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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

# UK-triggered alert spreads to MRT, LRT

## Metrostar Express bans liquids, gel, similar items on trains, stations

By Riza T. Olchondra

FROM NOW ON, ALL KINDS OF liquid, beverages and gel will be banned on all trains and stations of the Metro Rail Transit-3.

The Metrostar Express, operator of the MRT-3, imposed the ban on such items beginning Saturday following the foiled terrorist plot to bomb airliners flying between the United Kingdom and United States.

The plot involved making bombs on board the planes using chemicals disguised as beverages.

The Light Railway Transit Authority (LRTA), on the other hand, has not implemented a similar ban although its security personnel have also tightened checks on passengers.

The LRTA operates the Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2.

MRT-3 security personnel said the ban covers any form of liquid such as bottled water or beverages in cans such as iced tea or soda. Also prohibited are lotions, toothpaste, hair gel and other products of a similar consistency.

But passengers who are carrying these items will still be allowed to board the trains if they can present a receipt or, in the case of liquid medicine, a doctor's prescription.

Those who do not have receipts must get rid of the items if they want to board the train.

For passengers carrying perfume, cologne or similar items, they will be asked to spray on the liquid to substance to prove that these are harmless.

A security officer at the Metrostar Express said the ban was ordered by Transportation Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso, MRT-3 general manager.

It was imposed after the Department of Transportation and Communications ordered security tightened in the country's airports, seaports, land terminals and railways, particularly the elevated light railways following the foiled UK terror plot.

Security officials at the MRT-3, however, said that although the ban was prompted by the foiled plot, there was no specific threat in the Philippines and the additional security measures being implemented were merely preventive.

LRTA administrator Mel Robles, meanwhile, said that the LRT also tightened security at its stations beginning yesterday. However, he told the INQUIRER that his office has not yet received a directive from the DOTC to impose a similar ban on liquid and gels.

**IMPASSABLE**
A pedicab driver turns back after seeing the strong water current swirling around the Tumana Bridge in Marikina City. The bridge is usually impassable after a heavy downpour.
RAFFY LERMA

# 5 persons dead in fire caused by gas leak

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WITH ONE FLICK OF THE STOVE switch, Norma dela Peña lost five members of her family.

An explosion ripped through Dela Peña's house at 814 Mayor Street in Malibay, Pasay City on Saturday night, caused by a leaking liquefied petroleum gas tank.

The fire that came after the explosion killed her husband, Ernesto, 40 and four children—Erlinda, 14; Erna, 13; Erlyn, 7 and Ernie, 3.

Only Dela Peña and her two other children, Erica, 12 and Jeremylud, 10, survived although they sustained injuries. The three were taken to the hospital after the incident.

The Pasay City Central Fire Station said in a report that the fire also destroyed two nearby houses.

The blaze, which raged for about two hours before it was put out, displaced a total of nine families and destroyed P300,000 worth of property.

"The suspected cause of fire was from an LPG leak with fumes confined [in the house], which was triggered by a stove igniter … A witness and relative of the victims narrated that a sudden explosion … [was] triggered by switching on the stove igniter that started the fire," arson investigator Fire Insp. Leo Andiso said in his report.

# Manila cops trained to be skilled probers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE MANILA POLICE DISTRICT (MPD) held a one-day workshop for its operatives last week to introduce them to the latest detective and investigative techniques.

MPD officer in charge Senior Supt. Danilo Abarzosa said the training would enhance the skills of Manila policemen on data gathering, case solving, investigation and legal procedures.

The acting MPD chief said the workshop, which was held at the MPD Academy, was part of the regular training of policemen.

Around 100 police officers from different units and the 11 MPD stations attended the seminar conducted by Prosecutor Nelson Salva, chief of the Manila City's inquest division.

# Raps filed vs 'peeing tom'

A MAN HAS BEEN charged with oral defamation, grave threats and "urination in an alley" for cursing and threatening a real estate agent who reproached him for urinating in front of the latter's property.

Danilo Cablao, of Roosevelt Avenue, Barangay Veterans Village, Project 7, Quezon City, lodged a criminal complaint against Jonjon Marata, of the same address, in the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

According to the complaint, Cablao saw Marata relieving himself in front of their store at 9:45 p.m. on July 12. When he scolded Marata, the latter allegedly began cursing him repeatedly.

*DJ Yap*

Asia Law Initiative
USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The **Philippine Bar Association (PBA)**, in cooperation with the U.P. Law Center's **Institute of Judicial Administration,** and with the co-sponsorship of the **American Bar Association (ABA) Asia Law Initiative through USAID,** will hold a 36-unit **MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) Course on August 25 & 26, 2006 at the Valle Verde Country Club (Antipolo Room), Capt. H. Javier St., Bo. Oranbo, Pasig City and on September 1 & 2 2006 at the Philippine Stock Exchange Center (Tektite) East Tower, Penthouse, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.** The lecture-series will feature two foreign experts, Mr. Denis Rice and Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Judith L. Kreeger both of whom were invited by the ABA, to speak on *"US. Laws and How They Impact International Transactions"* as well as Mediation Techniques in Family Law, among others. Mr. Rice, a founding director of the law firm of *Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin,* has been listed since 1987 in *Best Lawyers in America.* His fields of practice include Information Technology, Securities and Corporate Law and Commercial Litigation. Judge Kreeger served as Circuit Judge in the 11th Judicial Circuit (Miami-Dade County) for 13 years assigned to the Family Division. She is presently Presiding Judge for Miami-Dade County Grand Jury assigned to Family Division.

MCLE SERIES FOR PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION

| August 25 | Topic | Resource Persons | Credit Units |
|---|---|---|---|
| Registration 8:00-9:00 | | | |
| 9:00-10:00 | The Impact of Sarbanes-Oxley on Non-U.S. Companies and their Counsel (*Substantive Law*) | Mr. Denis Rice | 1.0 c.u. |
| 10:15-11:15 | How Sarbanes-Oxley Affects Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions (*Substantive Law*) | Mr. Denis Rice | 1.0 c.u. |
| 11:15-12:15 | Emerging Issues on the Attorney Client Privilege and In House Counsel: Potential Pitfalls for Companies Doing Business in the U.S. (*Legal Ethics*) | Mr. Denis Rice | 1.0 c.u. |
| 1:00-3:00 | The Aftermath of Enron: Developments in Corporate Practice (*Legal Ethics*) | Speaker: Mr. Denis Rice<br>Reactor: Atty. Francis Ed Lim | 2.0 c.u. |
| 3:15-4:15 | Eavesdropping and Wiretapping and their Extra Territorial Application (*Substantive Law*) | Mr. Denis Rice | 1.0 c.u.. |
| 4:15-6:15 | Ethical Considerations in Creating and Enforcing Fee Agreements (*Legal Ethics*) | Speaker: Mr. Denis Rice<br>Reactor: Justice Hector Hofilena | 2.0 c.u. |
| August 26 | | | |
| Registration 7:15-8:00 | | | |
| 8:00-10:00 | Revisiting the Fundamentals of Direct and Cross Examination and other Aspects of Litigation (*Oral Advocacy*) | Atty. Rogelio A. Vinluan | 2.0 c.u. |
| 10:15-12:15 | E- Commerce: Privacy Issues in Off-Shoring (*MCLE Prescribed*) | Speaker: Mr. Denis Rice<br>Reactor: Prof. Jose Jesus Disini | 2.0 c.u. |
| 1:15-3:15 | E-Commerce: Jurisdiction Over the Internet (*MCLE Prescribed*) | Speaker: Mr. Denis Rice<br>Reactor: Atty. Ivan E. Uy | 2.0 c.u. |
| 3:15-5:15 | Enhancing Trial Skills Through Effective Use of Electronic Evidence (*Trial Skills*) | Speaker: Mr. Denis Rice<br>Reactor: Atty. Emmanuel Caparas | 2.0 c.u. |
| 5:30-6:30 | Recent Trends in E-Commerce (*MCLE Prescribed*) | Mr Denis Rice | 1.0 c.u. |
| 6:30-7:30 | E-Commerce Enforceability of "Click-Wrap" and "Browse-Wrap" Agreements (*MCLE Prescribed*) | Mr. Denis Rice | 1.0 c.u. |
| September 1 | | | |
| Registration 7:15-8:00 | | | |
| 8:00-10:00 | The New Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support and other Forms of Family Maintenance (*International Law*) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 2.0 c.u. |
| 10:15-12:15 | Child Representation in Domestic Violence Cases (*Substantive and Procedural Law*) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger<br>Reactor: Judge Nimfa Vilches | 2.0 c.u. |
| 1:00-3:00 | Problem Areas in Civil and Criminal Procedure (*Substantive and Procedural Law*) | Justice Oscar M. Herrera | 2.0 c.u. |
| 3:15-5:15 | Emerging Issues and Updates on Family Law Practice: Locally and Internationally (Substantive Law) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 2.0 c.u |
| 5:30-7:30 | Depositions and Discoveries: How it is Done Prior to Trial and How it is Used in Family Law Cases (*Trial Skills*) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 2.0 c.u. |
| September 2 | | | |
| Registration 7:15-8:00 | | | |
| 8:00-9:00 | Types of ADR Available for Family Law Cases (*ADR*) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 1.0 c.u. |
| 9:15-11:15 | Benefits and Uses of ADR in Family Law Practice (*ADR*) | Speaker: Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 2.0 c.u. |
| | | Reactor: Prof. Rowena D. Morales | |
| 11:15-12:15 | Ethical Issues in Family Law Practice (*Legal Ethics*) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 1.0 c.u. |
| 1:15-3:15 | Writing Legal Opinions and Corporate Resolutions (Legal Writing) | Atty. Mia Genlugaya | 2.0 c.u. |
| 3:30-5:30 | Simulation of ADR Techniques (*ADR*) | Judge Judith L. Kreeger | 2.0 c.u. |

*Registration fees: Php6,000.00 ( full 36- unit course) ; Php1,800.00 – (per day). Fees are inclusive of morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, lecture materials and MCLE Certificate of Attendance. Members of the PBA in good standing are entitled to a discount of 10%. Those who register and fully pay on or before August 18 for the full 36- unit course are entitled to a discount of Php500.00 *and, for PBA members in good standing, a discount of P1,000.00.* We reserve the right to reschedule any or all of the lectures if warranted by reasons beyond our control. The lectures are open to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. To register, please contact the PBA Secretariat at 815-3080 or 813-5631, c/o Ms. Beth Lipana.

**OPEN LETTER TO**
**HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**

We the undersigned **BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) Employees** would like to appeal to your Excellency's magnanimity to consider giving **Ms. Norma L. Lipana** a permanent appointment as **BIR Deputy Commissioner** prior to her compulsory retirement on February 18, 2007.

Ms. Lipana is a CESO IV eligible and a Certified Public Accountant and she rose from the rank, serving the Bureau for 41 years. Presently she is OIC BIR Deputy Commissioner, she has been holding her present position since April 2003.

It is our humble and honest belief that said permanent appointment is long overdue and would be a fitting recognition of her dedicated and meritorious service as **OIC Deputy Commissioner for three (3) long years.**

Undeniably, the success of BIR in implementing its rules and executing its mandated duties can be in a great part attributed to the strength and quality of its workforce. To this, we commend our **well-loved** OIC Deputy Commissioner Ms. Lipana, for giving her best in improving the workforce productivity of BIR by ensuring commitment of its personnel who are equipped with skills more than adequate to meet the demands of the work. The BIR through her able leadership remains steadfast to its call, despite continuing challenge.

Ms. Lipana is indeed a worthy public servant who deserves a permanent appointment as Deputy Commissioner of BIR. Her co-workers and peers look up to her not only as a very competent and effective manager but, at the same time, a compassionate and concerned leader.

Mrs. President, we the undersigned believe that under your leadership, this administration adheres to the highest ideals of merit promotion in the Civil Service, and not by political patronage.

A permanent appointment of Ms. Norma L. Lipana to the position of BIR Deputy Commissioner would be her just reward for her dedication and long years of selfless service in the organization. This would likewise serve as a morale booster to the rest of the BIR rank and file and erase the doubts in our hearts and minds that there is "political" reason why up to now Ms. LIPANA is still OIC Deputy Commissioner, despite holding that position for three (3) long years although she really deserves to be appointed as permanent Deputy Commissioner.

Under the law, Ms. Lipana is barred from being promoted six (6) months prior to her compulsory retirement. Hence, Mrs. President we appeal to your benevolent heart that you will give preferential attention to our urgent appeal and **appoint Ms. Lipana as permanent BIR Deputy Commissioner on or before August 17, 2006.**

Accept our wholehearted gratitude in advance our esteemed President, and we pray that with God's limitless grace, all your efforts for our people, and for our country will be crowned with success.

**SIGNED BY**
**3,276 BIR PERSONNELS**

(PDI – August 14, 2006)

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**PROGRAM**

**DAY 1: 19 OCTOBER, THURSDAY**

6:00am CREBA Golf Tournament
9:00 Registration, Courtesy Call & City Tour
2:00pm Conference 1: INCENTIVES
- *BOI Incentives to Encourage Foreign Investment on Real Estate*
- *Escrow as a Magnet for Investment & Real Estate Sales*
- *Dual Citizenship Law Allows Land Ownership by Former Filipinos*

2-6pm Chapter Orientation Workshop
5:00 Opening of Exhibits & Sponsors' Night
7:00 Welcome Dinner & Talent Show

**DAY 2: 20 OCTOBER, FRIDAY**

9:00am FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS
12:00 Luncheon Speaker: *"Country of Birth (COB) Land Ownership-A Model"*
2:00 PM Conference 2: EMERGING MARKETS
- *Health and Wellness Programs as New Markets for Real Estate Development*
- *The Philippines as a Retirement Haven*
- *Business Opportunities in Region I*

7:00 PM Gala Night & CREBA Chorale Performance

**DAY 3: 21 OCTOBER, SATURDAY**

9:00am Conference 3: FUND SOURCES
- *REIT - A Global Trend on Real Estate Investment*
- *Use of Retirement / Provident Funds for Corporate Housing*
- *Pag-ibig Mid-Term and Long-Term Funding Programs*

12:00 Luncheon Speaker: *"The New Metro Railway System - New Highways for Growth and Development"*
2:00pm PLENARY SESSION
7:00 Dance Competition and Raffle

For inquiries, please call:
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## MMDA'S NEWEST CAMPAIGN

# Turnstiles soon coming to a bus stop near you

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

FROM SUPERMARKETS AND RAILWAY transport stations, turnstiles have found their way to Edsa.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has turned to turnstiles to boost its continuing campaign to discipline commuters and pedestrians, an effort that gave birth to the agency's ubiquitous signature street implements such as pink fences, pink and blue steel footbridges and pink road signs.

Borrowing an idea long used in grocery stores and mass transport stations, the MMDA has begun installing turnstiles at the entrance of commuter loading bays on two of Edsa's busiest bus stops.

And in keeping with the agency's color scheme, the MMDA painted the turnstiles blue.

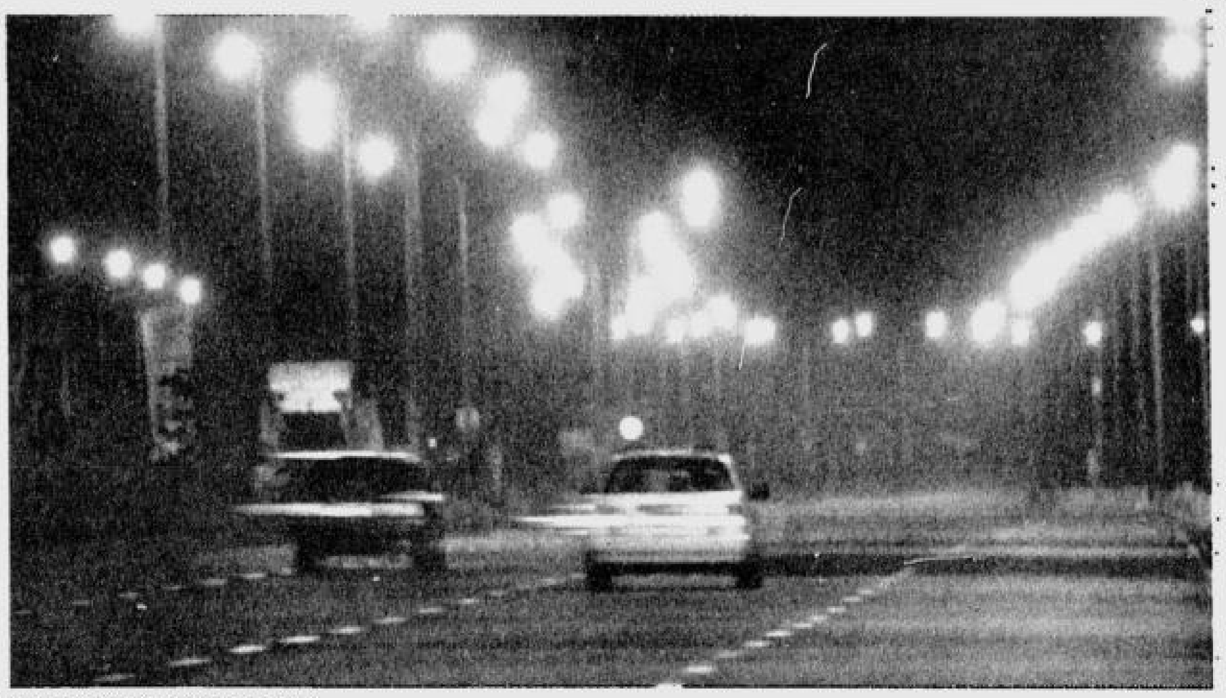
"This is meant to control the movement of people on loading bays. Once you get in, you can no longer go back out the same way because the turnstiles only turn forward," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, the executive director of the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center yesterday.

The traffic chief said turnstiles were installed last week at the entrance to two commuter loading bays—Gil Puyat Avenue (southbound side) and Ayala Avenue in Makati City.

Vergel de Dios added that the turnstiles would also discourage people from getting off at loading bays since the turnstiles would prevent them from going in.

"This would prevent people from entering and going out at the same time. It's either you jump over the turnstile or climb it just to get back to the other side," he said.

The agency is expected to more turnstiles in the coming weeks, this time, in front of Camp Crame in Quezon City.



**THE NEED FOR SPEED**
Two cars race along Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City. Residents said drag races are a nightly occurrence in the area although the city police have not done anything to stop the dangerous sport. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

# Cops: Robbers busy from noon to 4 p.m.

**By Tarra V. Quismundo**

MAKATI RESIDENTS SHOULD BE MORE careful when they go out on the streets from noon to late afternoon.

According to the police, thieves in the city usually strike between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m., based on a crime incidence analysis for the first half of the 2006.

Majority of the crimes reported in Makati from January to June this year were theft cases, accounting for 31 percent of the total. Sixteen percent were robbery cases while 15 percent were drug-related incidents.

In its first semester accomplishment report, the police said 77 theft cases occurred during the first six months of the year. Of the total, 29 cases or 38 percent took place between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m.

After 4 p.m., however, there was a significant decrease in the number of theft incidents: 17 cases from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; seven cases from 8 p.m. to midnight, one case from midnight to 4 a.m.; six cases from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 17 cases from 8 a.m. to noontime.

Makati's officer in charge, Supt. Felipe Napoles, said most of the incidents involved cell phone snatching.

"Most office employees in the CBD (Central Business District) go out of their offices at noon for lunch and then at 4 p.m., many are on their way home, so those with ill motives take advantage," he explained.

"We have long increased our police presence in order to reduce street crimes in the CBD and other areas," Napoles said. He added, however, that since the police cannot do it alone, they work together with force multipliers such as members of the Makati Department of Public Safety, barangay officers, watchmen and private security guards.

The police station has also been distributing pamphlets to the public on how to avoid being victimized by criminals on the prowl.

"Our concept is that crime materializes when three factors are present: one, the culprit has the desire to take advantage; two, the culprit has the ability to fulfill this desire; and three, the would-be victim gives the culprit the opportunity to fulfill his intention. If one does not give the culprit the third factor, then the crime would not be consummated," Napoles said.

### DID YOU KNOW

PACO Cemetery in Manila was completed on April 22, 1822 to serve as the final resting place for cholera victims killed in an epidemic in 1820. The most famous person buried there was Dr. Jose Rizal. His remains were, however, transferred to the house of his sisters Josefa and Trinidad. The urn containing his bones was interred in 1912 at the base of the Rizal Monument in Rizal Park.

*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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# Terrorism experts cast doubt on Qaida tie to London arrests

## Say linking plot to Bin Laden oversimplifies movement

WASHINGTON—WHEN AMERIcan and Pakistani officials said this week that one conspirator in the foiled plan to bomb trans-Atlantic airliners was a "liaison" to al-Qaida, they suggested that his arrest proved the group was linked to the scheme. Rashid Rauf, a Briton, had trained in the group's camps in the 1990s and was "a key al-Qaida operative," one Pakistani official said.

But counterterrorism experts said Saturday that the focus of government officials and the public on al-Qaida, a term today with deep connotations but elusive meaning, may be misplaced.

They say the Qaida label remains useful shorthand for the news media and for officials who want to tap the powerful emotions associated with the Sept. 11 attacks. But to suggest that the terrorist threat today is represented by the organization directly commanded by Osama bin Laden is to oversimplify a complex international movement, the specialists say.

**ALLEGED** chief of Al-Qaida in Pakistan Matiur Rehman. Sources in Pakistan have rejected reports in Britain that Rehman was allegedly involved in conspiracy. AFP

"If you think of al-Qaida as the group that did 9/11, I don't think it's a very useful question," said Marc S. Sageman, a former CIA officer and author of a 2004 book closely studied in intelligence agencies, "Understanding Terror Networks."

"There is no such thing as al-Qaida as it existed before we went to Afghanistan and destroyed it," Sageman said.

Top American officials said in their first comments after news of the arrests in Britain that the scheme bore "the hallmarks" of al-Qaida. Media coverage dwelt at length on the possibility of ties to the group. The identification on Friday of Rauf appeared to nail down a connection.

"Those of us in the counterterrorism community debate this all the time: What do we mean when we say 'al-Qaida'?" said Brian Fishman, of the Combating Terrorism Center at the US Military Academy. "There's a lot of disagreement."

But the focus on al-Qaida reflects a natural human tendency to paint the enemy in understandable terms, Fishman said.

"The world is simpler when we have one enemy," he said. "When we talk about a social movement and self-radicalizing, homegrown groups, that's nothing like we have faced in the past."

*New York Times*

**WATER FUN**
Tigers play in a pool at a zoo in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province Aug. 13. Temperature hit a record high at 37 degrees Celsius (99 degrees Fahrenheit) on Sunday in Nanjing, local media reported. REUTERS

**LIGHT MOMENT**
Indian schoolgirls dressed in traditional Punjabi clothing and carrying earthenware pots share a light moment as they perform a 'gidha' dance during a rehearsal for Independence Day Celebrations in Amritsar, Aug. 13. Indian authorities have stepped up security nationwide, fearing terror attacks ahead of the country's Independence Day holiday and a Hindu festival, officials said. AFP

# Peace official slain; Sri Lanka toll mounts

COLOMBO—A LEADING OFFICIal involved in Sri Lanka's troubled peace process was assassinated Saturday as fighting in the island's north and east intensified claiming at least 177 lives.

President Mahinda Rajapakse immediately blamed the shooting of Ketheesh Loganathan, the Deputy Secretary-General of the Peace Secretariat, on the Tamil Tigers although their was no claim of responsibility from the rebels.

"The president condemns the assassination and says this is the work of the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) and shows how they are targeting members of the Tamil community who are working for peace," presidential spokesperson Chandrapala Liyanage told AFP.

Loganathan was shot at his home in Colombo's Dehiwala suburb by two unidentified gunmen and was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital, police said.

His slaying came on the first anniversary of the assassination of foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar, another member of the minority Tamil community killed by suspected Tiger gunmen.

Ethnic Tamils are a minority in Sri Lanka where the majority of people are Sinhalese.

War planes bombed Tiger rebel positions Saturday as the fiercest fighting since a 2002 ceasefire raged leaving 177 people dead, according to the military.

The government said the new fighting in the northern peninsula of Jaffna and the northeastern district of Trincomalee was undermining a Norwegian-backed peace initiative and accused the LTTE of seeking to return the island to full-scale war.

"The LTTE has intensified its terrorist activities to such an extent it appears that they want a full-scale confrontation," government spokesperson Keheliya Rambukwella said. "It may appear that we are at war." Sri Lankan war planes pounded Tamil rebel gun positions at Pooneryn near the Jaffna peninsula in the country's north with heavy shelling reported throughout the night and into Saturday morning, the defense ministry said.

Jaffna remained under a night curfew, officials said as troops conducted mop up operations.

Fighter planes also bombed rebel positions in Trincomalee in the northeast, sending hundreds of civilians fleeing to schools and churches while troops and rebels traded artillery fire for an hour, officials and residents said.

The bombing and the clashes left at least 150 Tigers and 27 security personnel dead and another 310 on both sides wounded, the defense ministry said in a statement.

Sri Lanka's key foreign aid donors expressed serious concern over a growing humanitarian crisis stemming from the worsening ethnic conflict and called for an immediate halt to hostilities.

The Tigers and the Sri Lankan government have blamed each other for the upsurge in violence, which has claimed over 1,200 lives by official count since December, despite the February 2002 truce arranged by peace-broker Norway. *AFP*

# Mahathir out to topple PM, reports say

KUALA LUMPUR—FORMER Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad is out to topple his successor Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as fears grow over divisions in the ruling party, reports said Sunday.

Influential cabinet minister Nazri Abdul Aziz, citing information he had gleaned from Mahathir's conversations with friends, said the ex-premier was working to unseat Abdullah, also president of the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO).

"If he continues his actions to destroy UMNO, to bring down the president, I will be at the forefront as a warrior to defend the party," Nazri was quoted as saying in the New Straits Times.

Nearly 200 UMNO divisions are currently holding their annual meetings nationwide and the dispute between the two has featured high on the agenda.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak Sunday insisted there were no serious party rifts and that no one could easily overthrow Abdullah, who last week went on national television to deny Mahathir's claims of corruption and nepotism.

"His position is not easily threatened by anyone," Najib was quoted as saying by the state Bernama news agency.

"Many assumptions can be made but what is important is that all quarters give their full and unequivocal support for Abdullah as UMNO president and prime minister," he said.

The row has led to worries amongst UMNO members of growing strife within the party, and concerns that opposition parties will capitalise on the bitter public dispute. *AFP*

# Iraq forces smash plot against PM's family

BAGHDAD—IRAQI AND US TROOPS hunting alleged kidnappers raided the health ministry Sunday, arresting five suspects, as the embattled government stepped up its make or break battle against insurgent forces.

The government also announced that it had arrested a 16-strong gang alleged to have been plotting attacks on Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's family.

"Acting on an Iraqi citizen's tip regarding kidnap victims, Iraqi forces with US advisers searched the Ministry of Health at about 2:30 a.m. and detained five for further questioning," an official from the US-led coalition said.

Following the raid, health workers mounted a small non-violent anti-American protest outside the ministry, to demand the release of the detainees, whom an official described as bodyguards to the minister, Ali al-Shamari.

Senior health ministry official Hakim al-Zamli said US and Iraqi troops arrived in the early hours and had captured seven suspects. He told AFP the troops had taken five million dinars ($38,000) in cash.

Zamli said health workers had gone on strike in protest at the raid, but that emergency health services would be maintained.

"Our demands are the release of the detainees, a promise not to raid the ministry, compensation for the damages and an official apology," he told AFP.

But the coalition official, speaking on condition of anonymity because an official statement on the raid was being prepared, said the raid was carried out after Iraqi forces received information relating to a kidnapping.

"It is for the benefit of the Iraqi people that these forces conducted the search and detained the suspects for further questioning," he said. *AFP*

# Panel suggests using inmates in drug trials

PHILADELPHIA—AN INFLUENTIAL federal panel of medical advisers has recommended that the government loosen regulations that severely limit the testing of pharmaceuticals on prison inmates, a practice that was all but stopped three decades ago after revelations of abuse.

The proposed change includes provisions intended to prevent problems that plagued earlier programs. Nevertheless, it has dredged up a painful history of medical mistreatment and sparked debate among prison rights advocates and researchers about whether prisoners can truly make uncoerced decisions, given the environment they live in.

Supporters of such programs cite the possibility of benefit to prison populations, and the potential for contributing to the greater good.

Until the early 1970s, about 90 percent of all pharmaceutical products were tested on prison inmates, federal officials say. But such research diminished sharply in 1974 after revelations of abuse at prisons like Holmesburg here, where inmates were paid hundreds of dollars a month to test items as varied as dandruff treatments and dioxin, and where they were exposed to radioactive, hallucinogenic and carcinogenic chemicals.

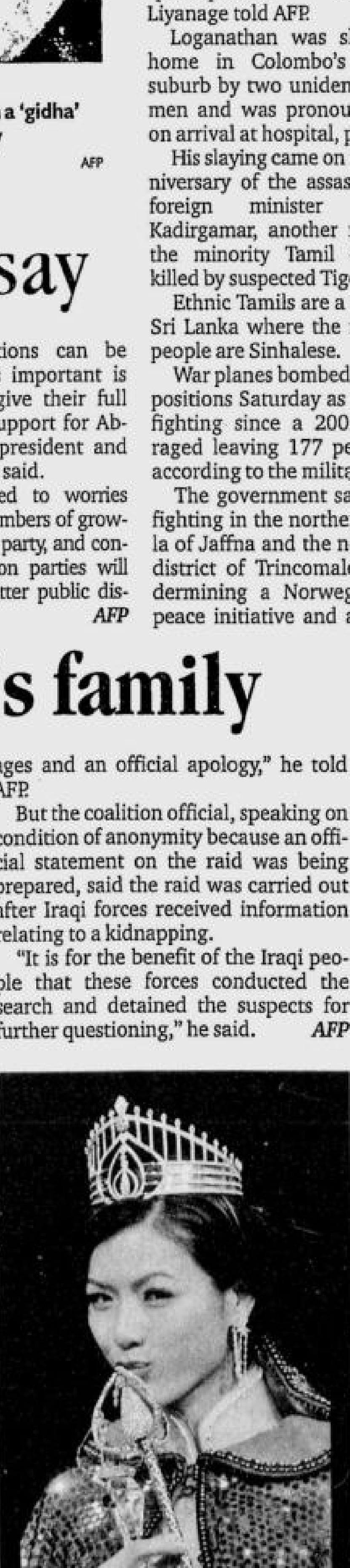
Alvin Bronstein, a Washington lawyer who helped found the National Prison Project, an American Civil Liberties Union program, said he did not believe that altering the regulations risked a return to the days of Holmesburg.

"With the help of external review boards that would include a prisoner advocate," Bronstein said, "I do believe that the potential benefits of biomedical research outweigh the potential risks."

But critics doubt the merits of pharmaceutical testing on prisoners who often lack basic health care.

"It strikes me as pretty ridiculous to start talking about prisoners getting access to cutting-edge research and medications when they can't even get penicillin and high-blood-pressure pills," said Paul Wright, editor of Prison Legal News, an independent monthly review. "I have to imagine there are larger financial motivations here."

Under current regulations, passed in 1978, prisoners can participate in federally financed biomedical research if the experiment poses no more than "minimal" risks to the subjects. But a report formally presented to federal officials on Aug. 1 by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences advised that experiments with greater risks be permitted if they had the potential to benefit prisoners. As an added precaution, the report suggested that all studies be subject to an independent review. *New York Times*



**HONG KONG QUEEN**
Miss Hong Kong Pageant 2006 winner Aimee Chan poses after winning the Miss Hong Kong Pageant Aug. 12. AP

# More troops join fight against fires in northwest Spain

VIGO, SPAIN—RAGING FIRES WHICH HAVE swept Spain's northwestern Galicia region were threatening a provincial capital on Saturday, when more troops were sent in to battle blazes that have now claimed five lives.

A 70-year-old man who was hospitalized with burns sustained while fighting a fire that threatened his Galician village died from his injuries on Saturday, a local government spokesperson said.

The latest victim brought to five the number of fatalities in the Spanish fires. Two other volunteer firefighters have been killed this week, as have two women, who died when their car was torched by the flames in Galicia.

Four hundred paratroops and four more helicopters were despatched to the region on Saturday, Defence Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said. They were to join 1,600 soldiers already at the scene, alongside 15,000 firefighters, 7,000 of them volunteers Alonso said the elite troops would help protect heavily populated areas and sensitive sites such as airports and power stations, as suspicion mounted of an organised plot to spread the flames.

Alonso said the resources being deployed against the fires, which have ravaged an estimated 50,000 hectares since Aug. 4, were unprecedented.

Another 400 civilian volunteers have also been thrown into the battle, according to Madrid, while witnesses said that in coastal resorts holidaymakers and local residents had joined in to beat back the fires.

By mid-afternoon about 103 fires were still raging in Galicia, of which 54 were out of control. *AFP*

# Paper publishes Castro statement, first photos

HAVANA—THE FIRST PHOTOGRAPHS of Fidel Castro since his illness two weeks ago were published Sunday in Cuba's Communist Youth newspaper with a statement by the Cuban leader saying on his 80th birthday "I feel very happy."

"For all those who care about my health, I promise to fight for it," said the statement attributed to Castro in Juventud Rebelde newspaper, but he cautioned that he still faced risks.

"To say that the objective stability has considerably improved is not making up a lie," the statement read. "To affirm that the recovery period will take a short time and that there is no risk would be absolutely incorrect.

"I ask you all to be optimistic, and at the same time to be ready to face any adverse news," it added.

"To the people of Cuba, infinite gratitude for your loving support. The country is marching on and will continue marching on perfectly well."

The online edition of the newspaper also published four photographs of Castro wearing what looked like a white and red running suit. In two of them he is talking on the telephone and in another is showing a copy of the Saturday edition of Granma, the Communist Party newspaper.

On Saturday, Granma carried a report saying that Castro was walking and talking again, and even working a bit in the most optimistic report yet since intestinal surgery forced him to step aside as president.

Meanwhile, his close friend and political ally, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, said Saturday that he would visit the Cuban leader.

"Tomorrow I will be with Fidel celebrating his 80th birthday," Chavez said at a news conference in Caracas after declaring his candidacy for reelection in December.

"I'll take him a nice gift, a good cake, and we'll be celebrating the 80 years of this great figure of America and our history," Chavez said.

**CASTRO** in November 1999 photo. AP

Chavez also visited Castro in October 2004, two weeks after a fall that shattered the Cuban leader's kneecap and broke his right arm. A picture of the pair on the front page of Granma newspaper was the first image published of Castro after the accident.

Saturday's article in the Granma newspaper—though brief—was the most detailed statement Cuba's government has issued since Castro announced July 31 that he was temporarily ceding his powers to his younger brother Raul, No. 2 in the government.

Fidel Castro said his condition during his recovery would be treated as a "state secret," so as not to give any advantage to his enemies in the United States.

"Firm Like a Caguairan," the Granma headline read, comparing Castro to a hardwood tropical tree native to eastern Cuba.

"A friend tells us that just a few hours ago, upon visiting the Comandante who was briefly dispatching some business, he witnessed some good news that he enthusiastically summed up in one sentence: 'The Caguairan has risen,'" the paper said in a three-paragraph report.

"He said that he could appreciate how the Chief of the Revolution, after receiving a little physical therapy, took some steps in his room and then, seated in a chair, conversed animatedly," the report said, without identifying the friend.

While the news of Castro's progress will surely be embraced by his supporters, South Florida's Cuban exile community used it to criticize the island's government.

"Sadly, Granma's optimism of Fidel Castro's health is in sharp contrast to political prisoners who are rotting in Cuban prisons for simply disagreeing (with him)," said Alfredo Mesa, spokesperson for the Cuban American National Foundation. "Dead or alive, change in Cuba must come now. The era of Fidel Castro must end."

Despite the optimistic assessment of Castro's progress, few believed that he would be making a public appearance on his 80th birthday Sunday.

No official events had been announced for Sunday, although Cuban musicians were staging a Saturday night concert in support of Castro and his government. *AP*

# In Africa, torch is passed on to 'AIDS grannies'

TORONTO—AFTER BURYING THEIR CHILDREN, they must take care of the children of their children.

They are the "AIDS grannies" of Africa: Women like Matilda Mwenda, 51, of Zambia, who has lost two of her seven children to AIDS, leaving five orphaned grandchildren in her care.

Or Priscilla Mwanza, 49, also of Zambia, a widow who is herself infected with HIV. She cares for three grandchildren orphaned by AIDS.

Or Alicia Mdaka, 66, from Cape Town, who has seen four of her eight children die—two from AIDS, two from stabbings. Now, along with her four surviving children, she cares for seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

The three women are among about 100 African grandmothers who flew here for a four-day gathering that ends Sunday with a march to the opening of the 16th International AIDS Conference. The gathering, which brought the African women together with about 200 Canadian grandmothers (very few of them dealing with AIDS in their immediate families), is believed to be the first large one dedicated to helping grandmothers cope with the AIDS pandemic.

"We did not know we had this potential until we formed a support group to learn and share," Mdaka said.

Although 40 percent to 60 percent of orphans in some African countries live in households headed by grandmothers, these women have received little financial or other support.

"Governments haven't the faintest idea what to do," said Stephen Lewis, a former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations who is Secretary General Kofi Annan's representative to Africa for AIDS. "The policies for orphans, more often than not, are a grab bag of frantic interventions, where faith-based and community-based groups try desperately to cope with the numbers, but rarely have either the capacity or the resources." *NYT*

# Gates charity's problem: How to spend billions

ALTHOUGH IT IS ALREADY THE LARGEST grant-making foundation in the nation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is facing an unparalleled challenge: How to give away more money—and do it much faster—than it ever has before.

**GATES** AFP

Largely lost in the June announcement of Warren E. Buffett's gift of $31 billion to the foundation were its terms. For tax reasons, starting in 2009, the foundation must give away every nickel that Buffett contributed in the previous year.

At the current price of the Berkshire Hathaway stock Buffett will be donating, the foundation will have to distribute $3 billion annually, or a little more than twice what it distributed last year.

"It's like having a second child," said Helene D. Gayle, who left the foundation this year to become president of CARE USA, the international relief group. "It's not just twice the amount of work; rather, things change in vastly different ways."

Over the next two years, the foundation plans to double its staff to about 600 people to handle the additional money, said Cheryl Scott, the foundation's new chief operating officer, and it is building a new headquarters complex in Seattle.

The foundation has said it intends to continue to focus its philanthropy on education and global health while adding a new area, global development, to help the poor in Third World countries. Before Buffett's donation, the Gates Foundation had assets of almost $30 billion.

Externally, the immensity of the amount the foundation will have to give away each year is reviving debate about its size and influence. *NYT*

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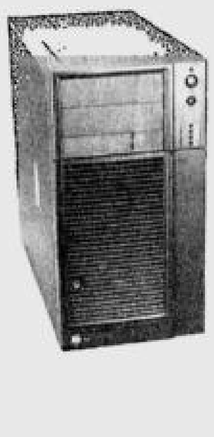

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# London plot probe focuses on brothers

LONDON—THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO A PLOT to blow up planes over the Atlantic has zeroed in on brothers arrested in Pakistan and Britain, one named as an al-Qaida suspect who left the family's Birmingham home years ago and the other described as gentle and polite.

British authorities, meanwhile, warned against complacency, saying the detention of several dozen suspects here and in Pakistan has not eliminated the danger. The terror threat level in Britain remained "critical"—its highest designation, and delays, flight cancellations and intense security continued to greet many travelers at London airports.

"No one should be under any illusion that the threat ended with the recent arrests. It didn't," Home Secretary John Reid told police chiefs at a breakfast meeting Saturday. "All of us know that this investigation hasn't ended."

Among the leads British police were following was whether any of the suspects have connections to the July 7, 2005 London suicide bombers, or whether any others among them visited Pakistan in recent months. They are also examining Internet cafes near the suspects' homes with the possibility of tracking Web based e-mails or instant messages, police said.

With US authorities urgently investigating whether the British plotters had links inside America, reports emerged that at least one of the men under arrest in Britain had contact in Germany with the wife of Sept. 11 fugitive Said Bahaji. The report in Focus, a German weekly, did not specify the suspect involved or say when the contact occurred.

A swirl of attention has focused on the role that the brothers Rashid and Tayib Rauf may have played in the plot. Their father, Abdul Rauf, immigrated to Britain from the Mirpur district of Pakistan several decades ago, and his five children were all born in Britain.

Rashid Rauf was arrested about a week ago along the Pakistan-Afghan border, and Pakistani officials have named him as a "key person." They say there is evidence he was linked to an "Afghanistan-based al-Qaida connection" but have given no details.

His 22-year-old brother Tayib was taken into custody in Britain during the sweeps that nabbed 24 people here, and there were unconfirmed reports a third brother may have been detained.

Friends from Washwood Heath secondary school in the Stechford suburb of Birmingham said Tayib was a keen athlete, and particularly into cricket and soccer. He was also a devout Muslim, and would pray at the mosque for two hours a day.

"While some people go home and look at sex websites, he probably went on the Internet and saw innocent (Muslim) people getting murdered and must have looked into the extremist side. That could have gotten him in trouble," said Adiew Magid, 20, who says he was close to Tayib at school but has not seen him as much since they graduated.

Relatives and other neighbors of the Raufs expressed shock that they were caught up in the inquiry, but the family is no stranger to the authorities. The Raufs' terraced home was first searched during a 2002 investigation into the fatal stabbing of Mohammed Saeed, the Rauf brothers' uncle, police said.

Rashid Rauf was reportedly a suspect in that slaying, and is believed to have left England for Pakistan shortly after Saeed's death. The home was searched again in connection with a murder during race riots in 2005.

British authorities have released precious little information about the brothers, or the course of their investigation into the alleged terror plot in general. There were no briefings on Saturday for the second straight day, and senior government figures stayed largely out of sight. *AP*

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Schedule of Special Events

**DAY 1**
**30 August 2006, Wednesday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN<br>WTC Lobby | The 27th Manila International Book Fair<br>Opening Ceremonies |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Forum on E-Books, E-Library, E-Publishing<br>by Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians<br>Speakers. Mrs. Salvacion M. Arlante, Ms. Jean Tiu Lim, Mr. Aaron Joshua Tiu |
| 1:30 PM - 5:30 PM<br>WTC Seminar Room I | Forum: Expanding Marketing Coverage in the ASEAN Region through the Development of a Common Language while Retaining the Language of the Culture by Book Exporters Association of the Philippines and Philippine Educational Publishers Association |
| 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM<br>Function Room A | Call to Faith: Religion Teacher Seminar by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.<br>Speaker: Ms. Suzanne Hwang |
| 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps & Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines |
| 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM<br>Makati Skyline | Gintong Aklat Awarding Ceremonies (By Invitation Only)<br>by Book Development Association of the Philippines |
| 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM<br>Function Room A & B | Project Presentation of American Institute for Learnings<br>by National Book Development Board |

**DAY 2**
**31 August 2006, Thursday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Sparking the Filipinos' Imagination: Nation-Building Through Library Excellence. A Culture of Reading and Inspiring Filipino Stories<br>by University of the Philippines Library Science Alumni Association<br>Speaker. Fr. Teodoro P. Gonzales, SJ |
| 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM<br>Function Room A | C & E Publishing/Thomson Gale Launching of On-line Products |
| 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM<br>Function Room B | Seminar on The Role of Blogging in Librarianship: Pros and Cons<br>by Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines<br>Speaker: Ms. Zarah Grace Gagatiga |
| 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era International Publication Aps & Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines |
| 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM<br>Makati Skyline | National Book Awards (By Invitation Only)<br>by The Manila Critics Circle |

**DAY 3**
**1 September 2006, Friday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN<br>Function Room A | Forum on the Interconnectivity of Reading & Civic Involvement<br>Book Talk: Twelve Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country by Atty. Alexander L. Lacson<br>by Phil. Librarians Assn., Inc. and Phil. Booksellers Assn., Inc. |
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN<br>Function Room B | Forum on Book Writing, Publishing & Selling<br>by Philippine Group of Law Librarians |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM<br>Function Room A | Teaching for Change: Seminar on Transformative Education<br>by C & E Publishing, Inc.<br>Speaker: Mr. Onofre Pagsanghan |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Lecture-Forum on Reinventing Information Literacy<br>by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science<br>Speakers: Ms. Zarah Grace Gagatiga and Mr. Rene C. Romero |
| 3:30 PM - 5:30 PM<br>Function Room A | Health, Beauty and Wellness<br>by Medical & Health Librarians Association of the Philippines |
| 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Dianetics Introductory Lecture by New Era Intl. Publication Aps & Church of Scientology Mission of the Philippines |
| 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM<br>Function Room B | Book Launching by TESDA/Anvil Publishing, Inc |
| 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM<br>Makati Skyline | 2006 Grand Book Launch & 49th Anniversary Celebration<br>(By Invitation Only) by OMF Literature, Inc. |

**DAY 4**
**2 September 2006, Saturday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 AM - 12:00 NN<br>Function Room B | Launch of OMF Literature's Golden Year Writing Competition (By invitation Only)<br>by OMF Literature, Inc. |
| 12:00 NN - 5:30 PM<br>Function Room A | 27th National Quiz Bee-Manila & Pasay City Division Championship<br>by Quiz Bee Foundation |
| 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Hiyas Children's Books: Story Telling & Author Signing<br>by OMF Literature, Inc. |
| 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM<br>Activity Area | Robotics<br>by Felta Multi-Media, Inc. |
| 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM<br>Function Room B | Dianetics Introductory Lecture<br>by New Era Intl. Publication Aps & Church of Scientology Mission of the Phils. |
| 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Story Telling<br>by Vibal Publishing House, Inc. |
| 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM<br>Function Room B | Book Launching<br>by St Pauls Publishing |

**DAY 5**
**3 September 2006, Sunday**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM<br>Function Room A | Pistang Panitik<br>by Anvil Publishing, Inc & Unyon Ng Mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas/ Linangan Sa Imahen, Retorika At Anyo, University of the Philippines Likhaan: UP Institute of Creative Writing, UP Quill, UP UGAT, UP Writers Club, Ateneo de Manila University Press, Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts & Practices (AILAP), De La Salle University Bienvenido Santos Creative Writing Center, University of Sto. Tomas Publishing House & Thomasian Writers Guild, UST Center for Creative Writing & Research |
| 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM<br>Function Room B | Dianetics Introductory Lecture<br>by New Era Intl. Publication Aps & Church of Scientology Mission of the Phils. |

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

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DAILY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. | Drawing & Coloring Exercises, Puzzle and Ragnarok Games |
| 11:30 a.m. | Story Telling |
| 3:00 p.m. | Arts and Crafts |
| 6:00 p.m. | Clay Molding |

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5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Function Room A

August 31, 2006
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10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Function Room A
Corporate Manners with Fashion Show
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 n.n., Function Room A
Caregiver: Nursing Primer Course
5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Function Room A

September 1, 2006
Power Dressing with Fashion Show
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Function Room A

September 3, 2006
Successful Job Hunting Tips
10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Function Room A
Corporate Manners with Fashion Show
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 n.n., Function Room A
Modeling for Beginners
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Function Room B

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**WHAT'S INSIDE**

- Maskaev stops Rahman in 12th /A33

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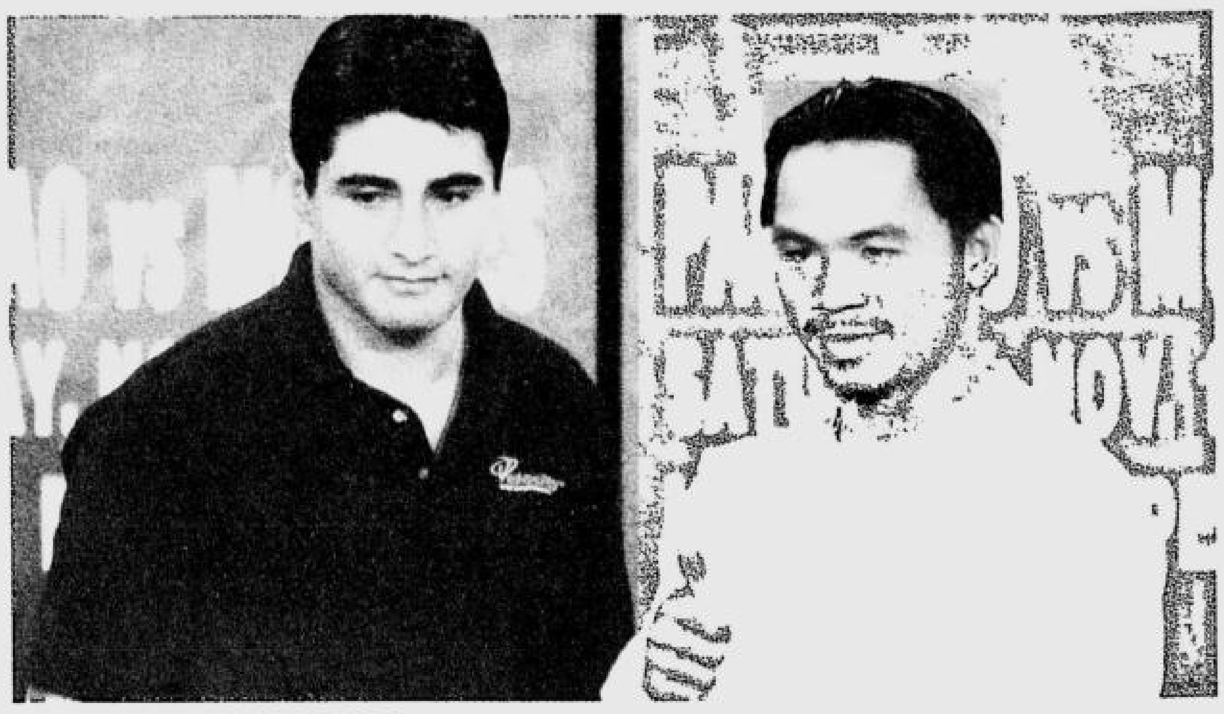
- US regains form, rips weary Lithuania /A34

# Warriors avenge loss to Tigers



**OVERWEIGHT GLADIATORS**
Three months before they clash for a third time on Nov. 18, Mexican ring icon Erik "El Terrible" Morales (left) appears to have gained more weight than his Filipino rival Manny Pacquiao as the duo poses for pictures following Saturday's news conference for their super featherweight nontitle bout at the Wynn Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Boxing pundits say that between the two, Morales usually takes a harder time trimming down to 130 lb *Story on A32.* AP

## Bulldogs upend dour Maroons

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR THE University of the East Warriors to figure out what went wrong the last time they played the Santo Tomas Tigers.

Plugging holes in their defense, the Warriors avenged a first-round defeat to the Tigers with a

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# Pacquiao-Morales III: Pair of promises

MANNY PACQUIAO PROMISED A GOOD fight. Erik Morales vowed to show what he can do.

The Filipino ring icon and the Mexican superstar didn't talk about a win but vowed to give it their all when they clash for the third time on Nov. 18 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

Unlike their previous pre-fight meetings, Pacquiao and Morales appeared somber and serious during a press conference yesterday in Las Vegas presided over by promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank.

The rubber match is aptly dubbed "The Grand Finale."

"It's going to be a good fight on November 18th," said Pacquiao, according to a report in Fightnews.com. "Both of us are trying to give you a good fight. I'm praying no one gets hurt on the 18th."

Morales, for his part, pleaded with the fans, asking them to grant him one more opportunity to show the old fighter who was once known as the "purest warrior in all of boxing."

"As everyone knows, the last few times that I've been in the ring, it hasn't been that good for me," Morales said.

"This gives me an opportunity to reverse everything and go back to where I belong. I'm asking you to believe in me one more time to show you what I can do."

Morales was stopped by Pacquiao in the 10th round of their rematch last January after the Filipino lost a close but unanimous decision in their first fight last year.

Pacquiao will receive a purse of $3 million this time plus contract stipulations that guarantee him at least $500,000 for each pound that the Mexican star goes beyond the 130-lb super featherweight limit.

Should Morales go beyond two pounds over the weight limit, Pacquiao has the option to either accept or decline the fight, with $1 million already safe in his bag.

Pacquiao will also have to stay within the weight limit or risk being penalized $500,000 for every excess poundage.

But the Filipino is not expected to encounter any weight problem, unlike Morales, who attributed part of his loss last January to drastically losing weight after fighting as a lightweight (135 lb) in his last outing.

According to Arum, Morales is working with a battery of experts in his quest to bring down his weight while at the same time retaining his power and stamina.

"Anybody who follows boxing and watches boxing will want to come to this fight or watch it on TV," stated the Top Rank CEO, who also put together the first two bouts between the two boxing icons.

The Filipino star is set to start his rigid training in Cebu, most likely at the famed ALA Gym, before he flies to the US for the crucial stages of gym work under Freddie Roach. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

# UE Warriors avenge loss to Tigers

From page A31

74-63 victory yesterday that kept them firmly in second place in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena.

"We played good defensively," said UE coach Dindo Pumaren. "Even when we were struggling offensively, we were able to get some stops."

The stops came easier than they did in the first round, where the Tigers fashioned out a 91-77 shocker against the tournament favorites. UST played minus top guns Jojo Duncil and Anthony Espiritu, who were both nursing a fever.

UE's defense held UST to 10 second-quarter points en route to a 35-24 halftime edge. All the Warriors needed to do the rest of the way was hold off several furious rallies by the Tigers to seal their fifth win in seven games.

UST, which played minus fever-stricken top guns Jojo Duncil and Anthony Espiritu, dropped to 2-5 along with University of the Philippines, which lost in the first game to National U, 107-104.

The Bulldogs climbed to 3-4 despite blowing a 10-point lead at the start of the fourth quarter. They rallied in the stretch behind Jonathan Fernandez, who paced the team with 21 markers.

Michael Salvado also played a crucial role for NU, knocking in all his seven points in the final three minutes, including a three-point play that tied the game at 100.

Sophomore James Martinez supplied the big offensive for the Warriors by burying 15 of his 19 points from beyond the arc.

Bonbon Custodio, Marcy Arellano and Mark Borboran all finished in double figures, providing a lot of defensive problems for the Tigers, who managed to put up a rally in the third period.

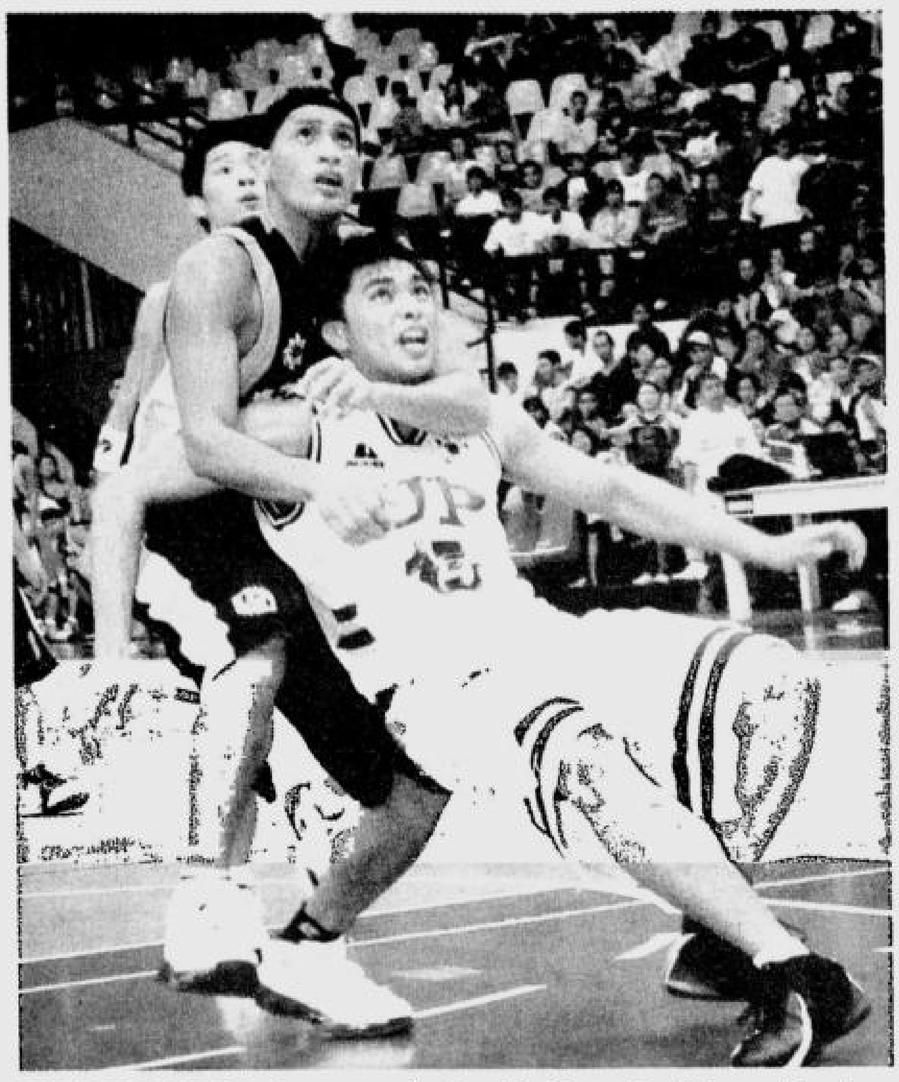
Trailing by as many as 15 points there, the Tigers pounced on turnovers by the Warriors to cut the deficit to 49-45.

But Borboran waxed hot, knocking in 11 of his 12 points in the final canto to help UE erect a 67-54 buffer that took the wind out of the Tigers.

The Bulldogs also had to deal with manpower woes as big men Edwin Asoro, Joseph Lingao-Linga and Howard Flor fouled out in succession in the last quarter.

Marvin Cruz presided over the Maroons' late comeback by shooting 15 of his 20 points in the fourth period. But Cruz provided the Bulldogs with an easy way out by turning the ball over in a crucial possession in the last 17.2 seconds.

Cruz also opted to pass instead of putting up a triple which rookie Martin Reyes released after the final buzzer.



NATIONAL U'S Edwin Asoro restrains State U's Nestor David from getting the rebound during their match at the PhilSports Arena. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

**The scores:**

**First Game (Srs)**

**NU 107**—Fenandez 21, Malagueño 19, Malcontento 18, Garcia 15, Flor 9, Catamora 9, Salvado 7, Asoro 7, Lingao-Lingao 2, Dela Cruz 0.

**UP 104**—Serios 22, Cruz 20, David 19, Reyes 14, Cacha 7, Braganza 7, Buyco 5, De Asis 4, Co 4, Sorongon 2, Epres 0.

**Quarters:** 30-24, 59-54, 82-72, 107-104

**Second Game (Srs)**

**UE 74**—Martinez 19, Custodio 14, Arellano 13, Borboran 12, Bandaying 5, Gregorio 5, Espiritu 4, Cañizares 2, Thiele 0, Llagas 0, Labagala 0.

**UST 63**—Cruz 17, Evangalista 12, Ababou 12, Cuan 11, Cortez 6, Taylor 3, Dizon 2, Marquez 0, Allera 0.

**Quarters:** 11-14, 35-24, 54-48, 74-63

# Dumandan paces US tilt

MARVIN DUMANDAN RODE A THREE-BIRDIE string from No. 12 for a three-under-par 69 and a two-stroke lead over American Freddy Wolfe at the start of the North Orange County Amateur at the Black Gold Golf Club in Yorba Linda, California Saturday.

Dumandan, who finished joint seventh in last week's USGA Amateur Golf Championships Sectional Qualifiers in West Covina, actually opened with a bogey on the par-3 No. 10.

But the national team mainstay sprang back with birdies on Nos. 12, 13 and 14 and made the turn at 34. He added two more birdies on Nos. 2 and 4 to negate another bogey on No. 5 and finish with a 34-35 card.

Another Filipino bet, Gene Bondoc, led two others with 72s in this 36-hole tournament under the amateurgolf.com calendar of events, California's premier amateur golf circuit.

Other even par scorers were Chris Lavery and David Staszko.

Former Singapore Amateur champ Michael Bibat groped for form with a 75, and so did Jay Bayron, who struggled with his short irons and a balky putter to limp home with a 78.

The long-hitting Dumandan also had his share of muffed birdie putts for the day but his near-impeccable short game kept him going.

"The course is relatively short but it's tight so if they keep their drives in play, they would be OK," said Chris Guerrero, the man at the helm of the four-man RP squad whose overseas stint is sponsored by ICTSI as part of the team's buildup for the Asiad in Qatar in December.

# Board backs Vargas on PBA-owned venue

**By Beth Celis**

MACAU (VIA SMART WeRoam)—The vision of a PBA-owned coliseum may become a reality sooner than expected.

In the annual PBA board planning session held here over the weekend, the governors expressed their support for the construction of the league's permanent home, a project proposed by new chair Ricky Vargas of Talk 'N Text.

The dream of having its own home for the league has been nurtured by many PBA commissioners and chairs before Vargas but it was only during the term of Sta. Lucia's Buddy Encarnado, whose company is in the real estate business, that the plan took off the ground.

Feasibility studies were initiated at the time, but had to be shelved in view of bigger issues that needed to be addressed immediately.

"We were doing a lot of firefighting during Buddy's time and completely forgot about the coliseum project," said Vargas, who has asked the blessing of PLDT/Smart chairman Manny V. Pangilinan for the league's most ambitious project.

# Beaten Viloria needs a heart check

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

THE REACTION WAS UNANIMOUS. Filipino fight fans all over the world felt dejected over the inexplicable loss suffered by their countryman Brian Viloria in Las Vegas on Friday.

These frustrated citizens were not exactly sad.

Sorry, Brian, they were all very mad.

"What a stink," texted former RP national cyclist Rolando Hiso. "What do you think: Viloria took a dive? That's the news here in Chicago. Thanks."

Hiso, who would fly all the way from his Illinois nest to be at ringside for Manny Pacquiao's big bouts in Vegas, however, woke up congratulating himself. He was already in Nevada for his mother's birthday and had thought of attending the Viloria title defense at Orleans Hotel and Casino.

Hiso decided to skip it, thereby saving himself from a live, full-scale heartache.

Of course, there was no escaping the taunts from Mexican officemates in Chicago who continue to rib Hiso about Viloria's heartless stand.

* * *

**There were also those who refused to buy what they described as Viloria's deliberate dumbness.**

**Two-time national marathon cycling champion Jess Garcia, a half-Mexican, had a loose suspicion that Viloria had allowed himself to be "mafia-ed."**

**"He was not ready, he was not yet ripe (*hindi pa hinog*)," said Garcia from his Pangasinan perch. "He can't compare with Manny Pacquiao, from all angles."**

**From INQUIRER columnist Beth Celis: "Did he chicken out (*Naduwag ba*)? How boring *siyang panoorin*."**

**Out there at the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, Kit So, a housewife from Binangonan, said all those who watched the fight on a video wall ended up very frustrated.**

**"You could see it in their sour faces, *inis na inis* (they were all peeved)," she reported.**

**Yes, Filipino fans, expecting a resounding win by Viloria, ended up feeling short-changed, if not robbed.**

**Viloria's soft losing stand spoiled what could've been a pleasant weekend.**

* * *

Anyway, slow and undecided with his fists, Viloria was quite quick to hint at a rematch.

He immediately announced he would ask his handlers, who have an option on his conqueror's next fights, to study the possibility of a second encounter with the new champ.

Not so quick, batted in Viloria's manager, Garry Gitthelson.

"Before we could think of the options," the disappointed manager told one of two Filipino broadcasters who worked the bout for Solar Sports, "we first have to do some soul-searching."

For his part, Viloria would explain that he was very, very shocked.

Viloria could not seem to fathom what had caused his pitiful destitution inside the ring against Nino Romero, the obscure Mexican challenger who took his WBC 108-lb title.

Then, somewhat recovering from the jolt, Viloria later explained that he waited too long.

OK. He tarried and stood there doing nothing. But what appeared clear was that Viloria failed to solve early the sharp jabbing attacks of Romero who, pardon this, did not actually appear too superior and strong.

Based on his past fights, Viloria entered the ring on Friday armed with better weaponry.

That he could've left all his gifts and skills inside the dugout was beside the point.

He kept waiting uselessly for an opening.

But Viloria, pure and simple, lost because he allowed himself to be intimidated.

* * *

**A report from ringside during the fight said Viloria had visibly blacked out.**

**He would just stare blankly during the breaks while trainer Freddie Roach was frantically giving instructions.**

**Once the fight resumed, Viloria would be practically defenseless, a sucker for easy jabs and straights.**

**Brian was so shallow and predictable he looked like a willing party, an agent in showcasing his opponent's sharpness.**

**Now, before everything else, they all have to heed what Viloria's manager had prescribed before they should start thinking of the future.**

**Viloria must undergo a serious soul-searching.**

**In order to arrive at a solution, they first have to investigate why Viloria had suffered a failure of nerve.**

**Just like a race car, they must determine how badly Viloria had been wrecked after suffering his first pro defeat.**

**They must check if the organ that had powered the fierce fighting machine is still in its right place.**

**A cardiac test appears imperative.**

# Real Spicy leads racing's money derby

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

AS EXPECTED, champion horse Real Spicy, owned by popular sportsman Hermie Esguerra, is setting the pace in this year's money derby.

According to the Philippine Racing Commission, the island-born four-year-old chestnut horse has earned a total of P2,659,790.68 as of July 31, ahead of stablemate Don Exequiel and Special Edition, which pocketed P2,458,010.97 and P2,181,850.55, respectively. Also in the winning circle are Mr. Victory (P1.89 million), Million Dollar (P1.76 million), Dixie Dash (P1.70 million), Ever Mine Now (P1.67 million), Western Dancer (P1.56 million), Lucky Joe (P1.55 million), Virgin Island (P1.53 million), Screaming Eagle (P1.44 million), Heroics (P1.42 million), Renzie Stays (P1.40 million) and Divine Right (P1.40 million).

A progeny of US Triple Crown two-leg winner Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale, Real Spicy has won seven races in as many starts since January, including victories in the first Philracom Pinoy H-Racing Cup on April 23 at the Santa Ana Park, the PCSO-First Gentleman Silver Cup on May 14 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, and the 26th edition of the Gran Copa de Manila on June 25, also at the SLLP.

"I think we now have a super horse," said battle-tested trainer Jojie Panlilio after Real Spicy easily won the Gran Copa. "Real Spicy is in fine form and Jessie (Guce, the jockey) told me that he even had to slow down his mount."

In winning the Gran Copa, Real Spicy beat an elite field that included Australian import Ever Mine Now (which finished second), Slatkis (third) and perennial rival Speed Advantage (dead last). Real Spicy covered the 1,750-meter race in a record time of 1:48. The horse had also set records in the 1,450-, 1,500- and 1,600-meter distances.

What makes Real Spicy click?

Esguerra said the team members' devotion to their craft (from the sota to the jockey to the trainer) has kept Real Spicy on a winning track. "Jojie, for one, is a major trainer," Esguerra said.

Known to legions of racing fans as the owner of millionaire horse Wind Blown (now retired to stud), Esguerra became a big success in Philippine horse racing because he worked hard at every opportunity.

"I really work hard when I go into something," he said in an interview. "I study everything there is to know about a particular undertaking, be it in business or sports."

A top money earner since 2001, Esguerra is again the leading horse owner this year, with total winnings of P16,603,164.64, as of July 31. He is followed by Leandro Naval (P9,968,270.91), former Marho (Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners) president Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, Ed Moreno (P7.70 million), AG de Ubago Jr. (P7.33 million), Antonio Floirendo Sr. (P6.76 million), RR Hernandez (P6.50 million), Jose Mari Franco (P6.07 million), RB Puyat (P5.88 million), EA Atienza (P5.35 million), Eric Tagle (P5.25 million, HL Neri (P5.06 million), RP Paman Jr. (P5.03 million), NO Morales (P5 million), JA Lapus (P4.89 million) and LC Almeda Jr. (P4.85 million).

On the other hand, the top trainers include RS Tupas, Johnny Sordan, RR Henson, FB Buencamino, Jun Paman, CI Alvarez, Jojie Panlilio and Donnie Sordan, while the winningest jockeys include JB Hernandez, Pat Dilema, AB Alcasid Jr., Fernando Raquel Jr., JB Guce, Dominador Borbe, KS Bergancia, Jeff Zarate, JB Cordero, KB Abobo and LD Balboa.

* * *

**NOTA BENE.** While the other Philippine Basketball Association teams are busy scouting for new and old faces to beef up their lineups for the coming PBA All-Filipino conference in October, Red Bull head coach Yeng Guiao is keeping an intact roster. "I don't want to change our lineup," he said... The first-ever BSCP Philippine Open 9-Ball tournament on Aug. 15-20 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium will feature not only veteran players but many newcomers as well. However, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, the country's most dominant pool players, will miss the action. Reyes and Bustamante will be playing in South Wales as the Philippines' bets in the World Cup of Pool set Aug. 22-27... Kudos to barangay captain Totoy Dimacali and *barangay tanods* Joel Acab, Prudencio Viernes and executive officer Dionisio San Pablo for apprehending recently a group of telephone cable thieves in Barangay Tabing-Ilog, Marilao, Bulacan... And congrats, too, to national shooters Donald and Tac Padilla, sons of former Olympic shooter Tom Ong, for assuming top positions in the Philippine National Shooting Association recently. Donald was elected PNSA secretary general while Tac was appointed chair of the association's pistol committee.

# Maskaev stops Rahman in 12th

**LAS VEGAS—OLEG MASKAEV STOPPED Hasim Rahman in the 12th round Saturday with a dramatic last-minute rally to win the WBC heavyweight title.**

OLEG Maskaev (right) lands a punch that rocks Hasim Rahman. REUTERS

Maskaev (33-5, 26 KOs) seemed headed for a narrow defeat in an entertaining fight until he sprang to life in the final round, knocking the champion into the ropes with a series of heavy blows.

Rahman (41-6-2), obviously hurt after setting the pace early on, desperately tried to hold on until the final bell, even grabbing Maskaev's leg as he stumbled to the mat. But referee Jay Nady stopped the fight with 43 seconds left after one last beating in front of a frenzied Thomas and Mack Center crowd.

"I believed up to the last minute I could win this fight," Maskaev said. "I got used to him as the fight wore on. I knew with three rounds left, I had to win them all to win the fight."

The fight was impressively even. Maskaev led 106-103 on judge Jerry Roth's scorecard entering the 12th, while Anek Hongtongkam favored Rahman 106-103. Glenn Trowbridge had Maskaev ahead 105-104, leaving Rahman in need of a 12th-round victory to force a draw.

The Associated Press had Rahman winning 105-104 entering the 12th.

Rahman was the only US-born heavyweight champion left in a division long dominated by Americans; Maskaev, born in Kazakhstan, is a naturalized citizen who lives in Staten Island. Three Eastern European champions hold the other significant belts.

"I'm proud of where I come from, but I consider myself a Russian-American," Maskaev said. "This is a message to everyone: European fighters are tough."

Maskaev, a former Russian Army officer, entered this fight on a 10-bout winning streak, albeit mostly against unimpressive competition. But the 37-year-old father of four earned a mandatory title shot with a persistence that prompted his promoters to compare him to James J. Braddock, the famed "Cinderella Man."

Maskaev's first fight with Rahman in 1999 went down in highlight history, thanks to Maskaev's stunning eighth-round right hand to Rahman's head. The punch knocked Rahman out cold and sent him tumbling through the ropes, over the broadcast table and onto the apron around the ring.

The rematch was nearly as dramatic—and again, Rahman dominated when he used his jab, but couldn't back it up with discipline or a knockout punch.

Rahman pushed the pace from the opening bell, patiently touching Maskaev with jabs and combinations. Maskaev matched Rahman's pace and landed his share of hard shots in a heavyweight fight that turned out to be much more entertaining than the division's dismal reputation would suggest.

Afterward, Rahman claimed the punch that staggered him occurred while Nady was telling the fighters to break—but he still blamed himself for abandoning the jab.

"I put my hands down, and he caught me with a shot," Rahman said. *AP*

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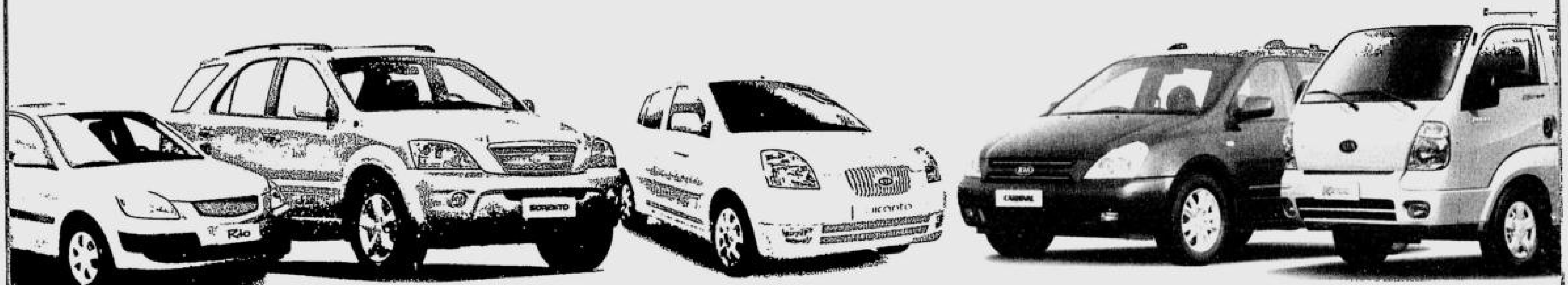

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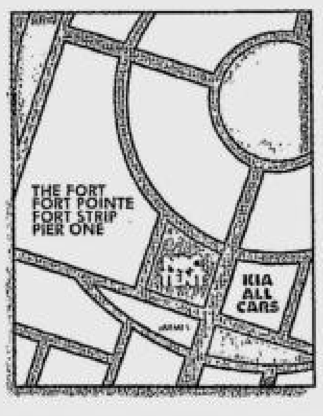

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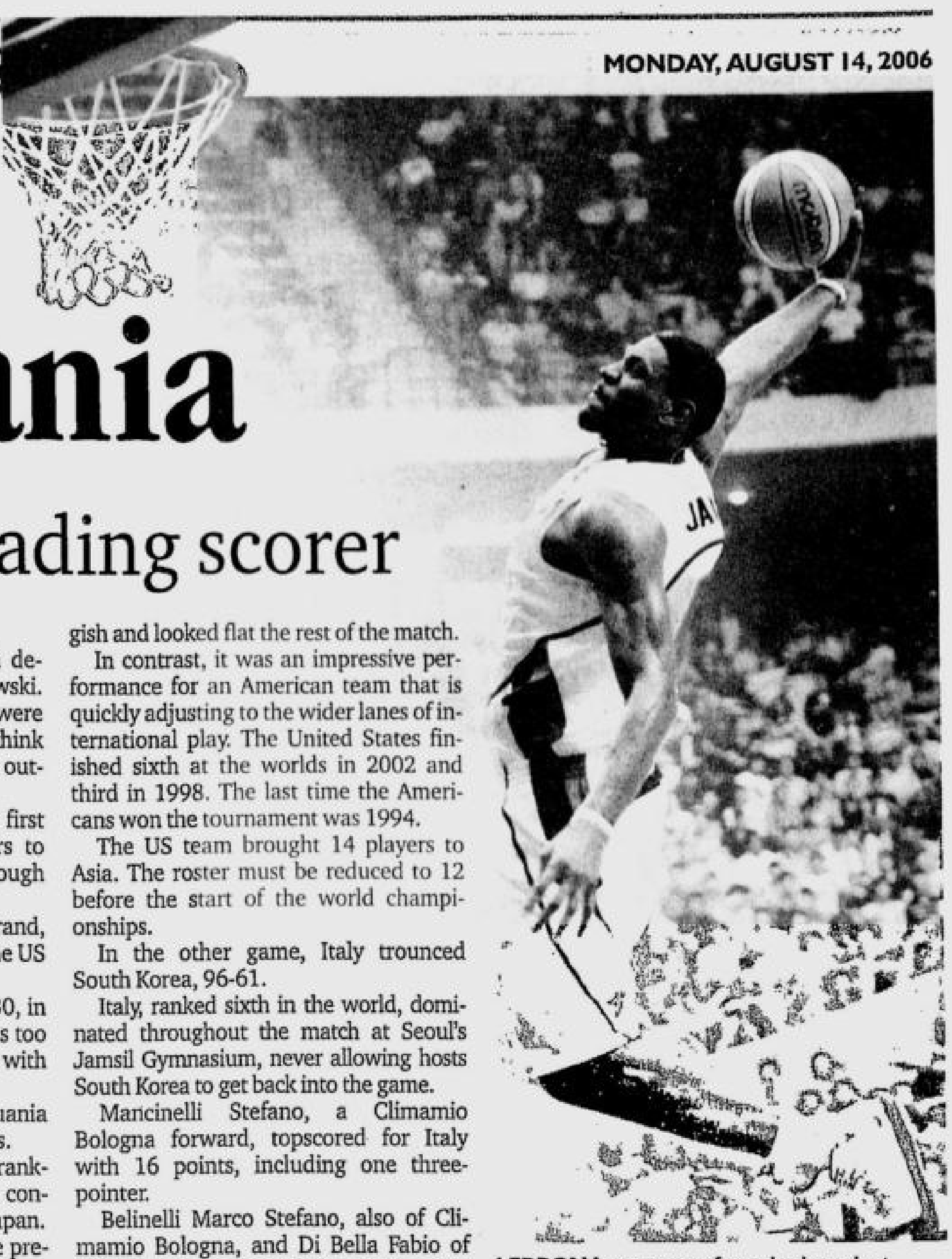
# US regains form, rips weary Lithuania

## Nuggets' Anthony still Americans' leading scorer



**LEBRON James soars for a dunk against Lithuania in an exhibition match.** REUTERS

**SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—WITH CARMELO ANTHONY back at full strength, the United States had little trouble with Lithuania.**

Anthony, who hyperextended his knee and left in the second quarter of a 90-86 win over Brazil last week, scored 19 points Sunday as the United States cruised to a 111-88 win over Lithuania in a tuneup for the world championships.

Anthony set the tone early with a slam dunk in the opening minutes that drew a huge ovation from the crowd, and LeBron James closed out the first half with a 3-pointer just before the buzzer to give the US a 56-32 lead at the break.

Dwayne Wade added 14 points as the United States improved to 4-0 in exhibition games leading up to the 2006 FIBA World Championships.

Using a sensational effort on offense and defense, the Americans overwhelmed the Lithuanians and took a 28-point lead after the third quarter.

"Our game plan was to just keep the ball moving," said Anthony, who leads the US in scoring over four exhibition games. "We know we can score from just about anywhere so we don't have to wait for a fantastic shot."

Early in the final quarter, James brought the crowd to its feet with a one-handed dunk that made it 87-55. The Cleveland Cavaliers star gave the Americans a whopping 108-78 advantage with another massive jam with two minutes left.

It was a balanced effort on offense with seven players scoring 10 points or more. James had 13 and the United States also got big contributions from Joe Johnson (12), Kirk Hinrich (10), Antawn Jamison (13) and Chris Paul (10).

After one more exhibition game against South Korea on Tuesday, the US will head to Sapporo, Japan, for its opening game of the championships on Aug. 19 against Puerto Rico.

"I thought we played very good defense," said US coach Mike Krzyzewski. "Lithuania is a strong team and we were able to take them out defensively. I think we got better today by playing an outstanding team."

Wade, who had 10 points in the first quarter, hit back-to-back 3-pointers to give the US a 25-9 lead midway through the first period.

Anthony, Shane Battier, Elton Brand, Kirk Hinrich and Wade started for the US team.

Lithuania outscored the US, 35-30, in the fourth quarter but by then it was too late. Kristov Lavrinovic led his team with 26 points.

The United States defeated Lithuania 104-96 at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Lithuania, fourth in the FIBA rankings, didn't look like the medal contender many expect them to be in Japan.

Still coming off a tough game the previous day, when they beat South Korea, 83-81, the Lithuanians started out sluggish and looked flat the rest of the match.

In contrast, it was an impressive performance for an American team that is quickly adjusting to the wider lanes of international play. The United States finished sixth at the worlds in 2002 and third in 1998. The last time the Americans won the tournament was 1994.

The US team brought 14 players to Asia. The roster must be reduced to 12 before the start of the world championships.

In the other game, Italy trounced South Korea, 96-61.

Italy, ranked sixth in the world, dominated throughout the match at Seoul's Jamsil Gymnasium, never allowing hosts South Korea to get back into the game.

Mancinelli Stefano, a Climamio Bologna forward, topscored for Italy with 16 points, including one three-pointer.

Belinelli Marco Stefano, also of Climamio Bologna, and Di Bella Fabio of Vidivici Bologna scored 14 and 12 points respectively. *AP*

# Holy Child edges Faith in shootout

HOLY CHILD SCHOOL OF DAVAO OUTLASTED Faith Academy of Mindanao in a free throw shootout on Saturday to earn the right to represent the Philippines in the Adidas Asian Streetball challenge in Guangzhou, China.

RR Wong and Narjan Pinto converted a charity each as Holy Child escaped with a 15-14 victory to assure that the Philippines will be represented by Filipinos in the Finals in China.

"We did not want Americans to represent the country, that is why we never gave up," said Wong of the come-from-behind victory that sent the big local crowd at the Mall of Asia's Music Hall into a frenzy.

"They really showed a big fighting heart and never stopped trying," said Ryan Gregorio, the champion Purefoods coach in the PBA who will mentor Wong and Pinto in China.

Holy Child, the Mindanao champ, erased a 9-13 deficit with just over a minute left by holding Faith, bannered by Americans Vince Burke and Moriah Gingerich, scoreless and closing out with a 4-0 spurt.

Wong and Pinto nailed the free throws awarded them in the shootout and Gingerich muffed the chance to tie it all up again by missing his attempt.

University of San Carlos, meanwhile, turned back Assumption College of Davao, 11-10, in a similar shootout for the ticket to China.

The tournament was supported by Globe Gentxt, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Snickers, Blue Angel Alcohol and Hero Energy Drink.

**NOWITZKI: Well-defended** AP

# Germany nips tough Brazil

NANJING, CHINA—DIRK NOWITZKI scored 18 points to lead Germany to a narrow 76-75 win over Brazil in a world championships warmup in China on Saturday.

Down 41-36 at the half, Brazil, led by Cleveland Cavaliers center Anderson Verejao's game-high 25 points, rallied in the fourth quarter to snatch the lead with three minutes left.

Germany went up again, but Marcelo Huertas banged in the lay-up to tie the game at 75-75 with 34 seconds remaining. Germany's Patrick Femerling then tossed in a free throw to give Germany the one-point lead.

With just 22 seconds left Brazil made one last attempt to pull out the win, ending with Alex Garcia's missed jump shot from the top of the key.

Nowitzki also claimed a game-high 16 rebounds, while former University of North Carolina Ademola Okulaja added 11 points for Germany and Demond Greene contributed nine. the Phoenix Suns' Leandro Barbosa scored 14 points for Brazil.

"I thought the guys did a great job. We came out and played really hard, and played well and got out to a lead," said Germany's coach Dirk Bauermann.

Nowitzki said the intensity of the game reflected the fact that teams were making final preparations for the world championships in Japan, now just a week away.

"Both teams competed really, really hard, and ultimately, going into the world championships you want to feel good about yourself, you want to have a rhythm, and you establish that when you have good exhibition games at a high level," the Dallas Mavericks star said.

In Japan, "every game is going to be a dog fight," Bauermann added.

Brazil, which lost 90-86 to the United States on Tuesday, has now dropped three straight in the final seconds. While the Brazilians responded well to the pressure—double-teaming kept Nowitzki from approaching the 27 points he scored against China on Friday—they fell short at key moments and were outrebounded by Germany 50-36. *AP*

# *Drivers take advantage of rest*

WITH THE ASIAN FORMULA THREE races postponed until next month, the two top Filipino drivers in the series—Tyson Sy and Dado Pena—will keep themselves busy working on their physical and mental preparations for the second half of the season.

For Sy, this means competing in karting races to keep his competitive juices flowing. Pena will spend more time in the gym and engage in outdoor activities to keep fit.

Sy, who has slipped to third overall in the drivers' standings after a series of misfortunes in the past legs in China, said the postponement of the races this month, originally set Aug. 19-20, will give him time to take stock of things and sharpen up.

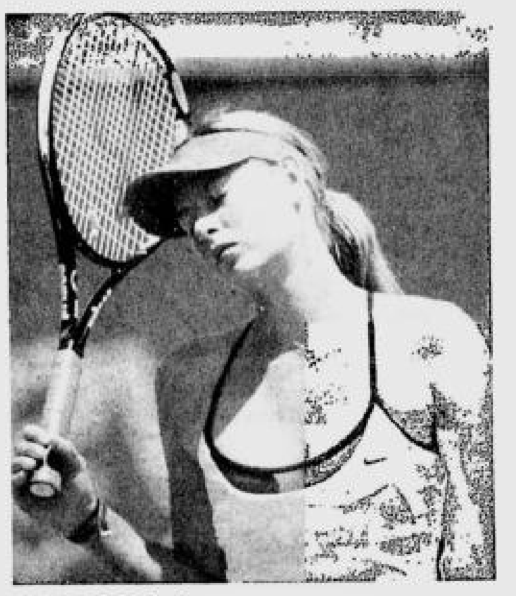
The postponed races, along with the next three races, will all be held on Sept. 20-24 at the Sentul International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

"Until I can ride the F3 car again, karting should give me the needed boost," said Sy, of Speedtech Asia, who won the first three races at the Batangas Racing Circuit, raising hopes another Filipino driver, after Pepon Marave, winner in 2003, could nail down the coveted title in the Asian nation-hopping series.

Inexperience on wet tracks during the rain-hit legs at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China, aside from mechanical problems that were initially left undetected, pulled Sy down to third place with 105 points, two behind Briton James Winslow of JA Motorsport and 22 behind new series leader Ali Jackson of Ireland's Aran Racing.

While Sy still has a realistic chance for the crown, Peña knows it would take a lot of doing for him to get back into the title chase. He is running sixth with 60 points, still with mathematical chances to win.

The two, along with boxing star Manny Pacquiao, Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner and members of the Mt. Everest Team, were recently named as endorsers of Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme.



**SHARAPOVA: Bone-weary** AP

# Carson tilt dream final fizzles out

CARSON, CALIFORNIA—IT WAS TOO GOOD to be true.

The two most popular players in women's tennis squaring off in an electric JPMorgan Chase Open final. That doesn't happen in Los Angeles.

Inevitably, something had to go wrong on semifinal Saturday at Home Depot Center. But this was a total disaster.

No Serena Williams vs. Maria Sharapova. No Serena Williams or Maria Sharapova.

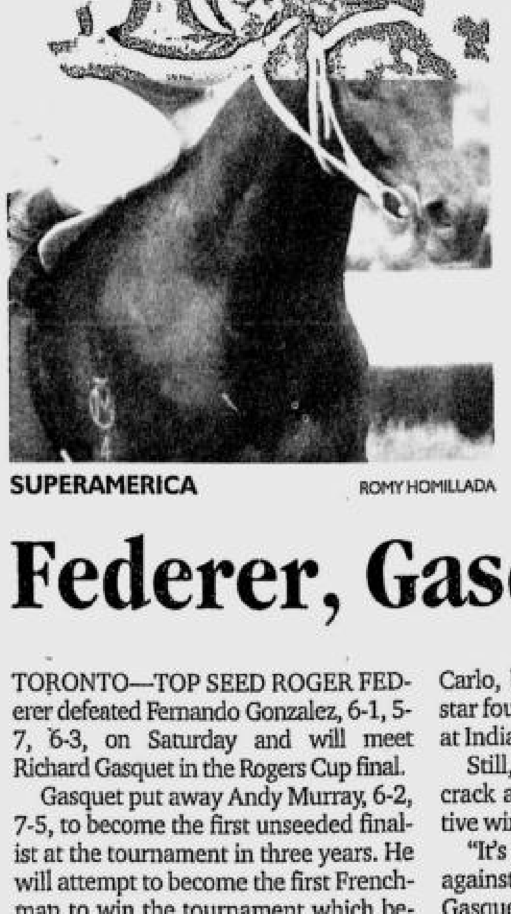
Williams never seemed in the match in a 6-4, 6-3 loss to Jelena Jankovic of Serbia. That wasn't unexpected. Williams, in her second tournament coming back from a knee injury, had been flirting with defeat the previous two rounds.

Sharapova, unchallenged all week and playing some of the best tennis of her career, suddenly fell apart in a 7-5, 6-2 loss to fellow Russian Elena Dementieva.

Sharapova, the attractive 19-year-old, seemed a lock for the final. The top seed had won eight matches in a row, including the championship last week at the Acura Classic, and had dominated Dementieva 5-1 in their previous meetings.

All those matches took their toll. Playing an early afternoon match following Friday's night stint, she came out tired and flat.

"I felt like my body did not respond like it normally does," Sharapova said. She went on to withdraw from the coming Roger's Cup, citing fatigue. *NYT News Service*



**SUPERAMERICA** ROMY HOMILLADA

# Superamerica runs down field

**By Musong R. Castillo**

SHOWING SO MUCH CLASS FOR such a young charger, Superamerica ran down an outclassed Juvenile Colts Stakes field yesterday under Fernando Raquel at the start of the lucrative series at the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

Superamerica jumped out hard, set a blistering pace that took the fight out of a chasing field and won by close to five lengths over Mr. Cutter for his third win in four starts.

The bay son of Khozaam out of Sign of Spring clinched the biggest win of his young career by clocking 1 minute and 30 seconds (16-23'-24-26') under moderate punishment for the 1,450-meter journey over a track hardened by intermittent rains.

It was worth P720,000 for owner Vic Martinez, who now seems to have a future champion considering how fast and dominating the win was fashioned out.

"My mount was able to set the pace he wanted," Raquel later said in Filipino. "Yes, he still had a lot left."

Mr. Cutter nosed out Macho Man for second worth P270,000. Iron Tower came back from the tail of the seven-horse pack to salvage fourth. Tiger Raffy was fifth, while Whilly Nilly and Storm Hall rounded out the finish.

Superamerica's win actually completed a day of the favorites in the series' kickoff leg after the Jeffryl Zarate-steered Que Sera Sera ruled the Fillies' division over coupled entries Condoleeza and Landed Visa earlier in the afternoon.

The bay daughter of Treasure Cay out of Agree To Agree came up with a blinding burst of speed in the middle two quarters before finishing with conviction for the P720,000 champion's prize.

Que Sera Sera had quarter clockings of 15, 23', 25, 27 for 1:31.6 also over 1,450 meters, checking in a clear eight lengths ahead of Condoleeza, who settled for the P270,000 runner-up purse for owner Hermie Esguerra.

# Federer, Gasquet dispute crown

TORONTO—TOP SEED ROGER FEDerer defeated Fernando Gonzalez, 6-1, 5-7, 6-3, on Saturday and will meet Richard Gasquet in the Rogers Cup final.

Gasquet put away Andy Murray, 6-2, 7-5, to become the first unseeded finalist at the tournament in three years. He will attempt to become the first Frenchman to win the tournament which began in 1881.

"He has really been able to back it up now," Federer said.

The 20-year-old Gasquet beat Federer in their first clash last year in Monte Carlo, but he has bowed to the Swiss star four times since, including this year at Indian Wells, Halle and Wimbledon.

Still, he was excited to earn another crack at Federer, who has 53 consecutive wins in North America since 2004.

"It's a gift for me to play in the final against Federer, it will be fantastic," Gasquet said. "I like his game."

Unlike Gasquet, who has dropped one set in five matches this week, Federer has had to battle to reach the final. He endured a third successive three-set match, although it started as if he would romp past 15th-seeded Gonzalez.

Federer won the first five games and took the first set in 20 minutes. Gonzalez was limited to 10 points.

But the Chilean improved his service game, held without relative trouble, and unexpectedly broke Federer to love in the last game to even the sets.

Just when Gonzalez looked comfortable on court with the world No. 1, Federer broke him in the seventh game and won the last three to end the match in 1 hour, 50 minutes. *AP*

**GASQUET** REUTERS

**FEDERER** AFP

# 3 top GMs boycotting Doha Asiad qualifying

UNLESS THE FORMAT FOR THE QUALIFYING tournament for members of the Philippine team is changed, the country will play without its top three grandmasters in the Asian Games scheduled in Doha, Qatar, in December.

Eugene Torre, Asia's first GM, bared this to the INQUIRER yesterday, a sentiment echoed by Joey Antonio and top-ranked Mark Paragua who are all clamoring for a different qualifying tourney.

The National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) has scheduled an 11-round Swiss qualifying from Sept. 1-8, but this format does not sit well with Torre and company who want a round-robin event with a grand finals phase.

"My decision is final," the 54-year-old Torre said in Filipino. "I will not play in the qualifying tournament if they don't change the format."

Two men's slots and one for a woman will be staked in the tournament as the Asian Games format will be for mixed teams playing nine matches in two events—regular and rapid.

"There should be a grand finals and it should not be a Swiss system tournament," the 22-year-old Paragua said.

Three-time Bangkok Open champion Antonio, meanwhile, wants the NCFP to seed its players to the Asiad using a criteria that would give weight to a player's performance for the past year.

While admitting that he is under medication and will not be 100 percent for the qualifying, Antonio feels that seeding players will assure that the country will be fielding only the best.

"The right thing for them to do is to put their concerns in writing so that the (NCFP) board can address their complaints," tournament chair Wilfredo Abalos said in Filipino when asked for a reaction. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

**LEBANON** standout Fadi El-Khatib drives against the Philippines' Asi Taulava. The game was still being played at presstime.
RYAN LIM

# World caging-bound Lebanon falls to RP 5

**GAME WEDNESDAY** (*Araneta Coliseum*)
6 p.m.—San Miguel-RP Team vs Lebanon

**By June Navarro**

IT WAS A WAR ZONE AT THE CUNETA Astrodome and the Philippines hit most of its targets.

Renren Ritualo sizzled from beyond the arc in the second quarter as San Miguel-RP Team pummeled Lebanon, 94-75, last night at the start of the visitors' two-game goodwill series.

The Filipinos were hastily formed just last week while the Lebanese were on their way to the world championship in Saitama, Japan, starting on Aug. 19 after finishing as No. 2 behind China in the last Fiba Asia championship.

Ritualo fired 23 points after going seven of 16 from three-point range.

Asi Taulava and Rafi Reavis held their ground against the taller and heftier Lebanese.

"We tried to run and quicken the pace a little bit," said coach Norman Black, who subbed for national mentor Vincent "Chot" Reyes who will return from Taipei in time for Wednesday's game. "I just implemented Chot's system."

Fadi El Khatib, MVP of the ABC Championship held at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City last year, was benched in the second half after scoring 10 points in the first quarter.

**The scores:**

**SAN MIGUEL-RP TEAM 94**—Ritualo 23, De Ocampo 12, Cortez 10, Miller 9, Allado 9, Pennisi 8, Reavis 6, Taulava 6, Santos 4, Williams 2, Miranda 2, Mamaril 0.

**LEBANON 75**—Feghali 16, Samaha 15, Vogel 13, El Khatib 11, El Turk 7, Mahmoud 5, Fakhreddine 4, Nour 2, Balaa 2, Fahd 0.

**Quarters:** 15-24, 54-43, 74-59, 94-75

# Pagulayan in town for Nat'l Pool

**FORMER WORLD POOL CHAMP ALEX "THE LION" PAGULAYAN and four of his fellow Southeast Asian Games gold medalists banner the 64-man field in the 2006 BSCP National Pool Championship which gets going tomorrow at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.**

**PAGULAYAN: Hands-down fave.**

Pagulayan, who bagged three SEAG gold medals last December, arrived in Manila on Friday.

He had earlier registered and paid the tournament's entry fee.

Joining him in the tough, rich event are four other SEAG champions—Dennis Orcollo, Lee Van Corteza, Leonardo Andam and Antonio Gabica.

The Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines turned to the five to carry the country's colors in the SEAG after Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante skipped Games last year.

The 64-man National Pool field was being completed yesterday at the Star Billiards Center where 47 players are competing for the final 12 slots in the tournament.

The round-robin qualifiers opened yesterday afternoon.

Pagulayan, also the 2005 US Open Champion, is seeded No. 1 in the national championship, ahead of Orcollo.

The two, along with Korean Open champion Ronato Alcano, Corteza and Gabica, are considered the face of the new generation of Filipino cue masters out to take over from Reyes and Bustamante.

They will contest the national title with veterans from an earlier generation, notably Jose "Amang" Parica, the 2005 US Open runner-up, and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, winner of the recent Kaohsiung leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour.

Also seeded to compete for the title are Ramil Gallego, the SMC Tour's Bangkok leg winner, and Mario Tolentino, third placer in last year's Philippine Open.

# Olivarez makes good on first of 2 title bids

TOP SEED SHANNIN OLIVAREZ BANKED on a steady baseline game to thwart second seed Patsy Orteza, 7-6 (3), 6-1, yesterday and cop the girls' 12-under title in the Olivarez Age Group Tennis Championships at the Olivarez Sports Center indoor court.

The title was the fifth this year for Olivarez, whose mean backhand foiled Orteza for the sixth time in as many outings.

Seeded No. 3 in the 14-under division, Olivarez also defeated Tamita Nguyen, 6-0, 6-0, to advance to the finals against top seed Joan Opulencia, who bested Joana Peña, 6-2, 6-3.

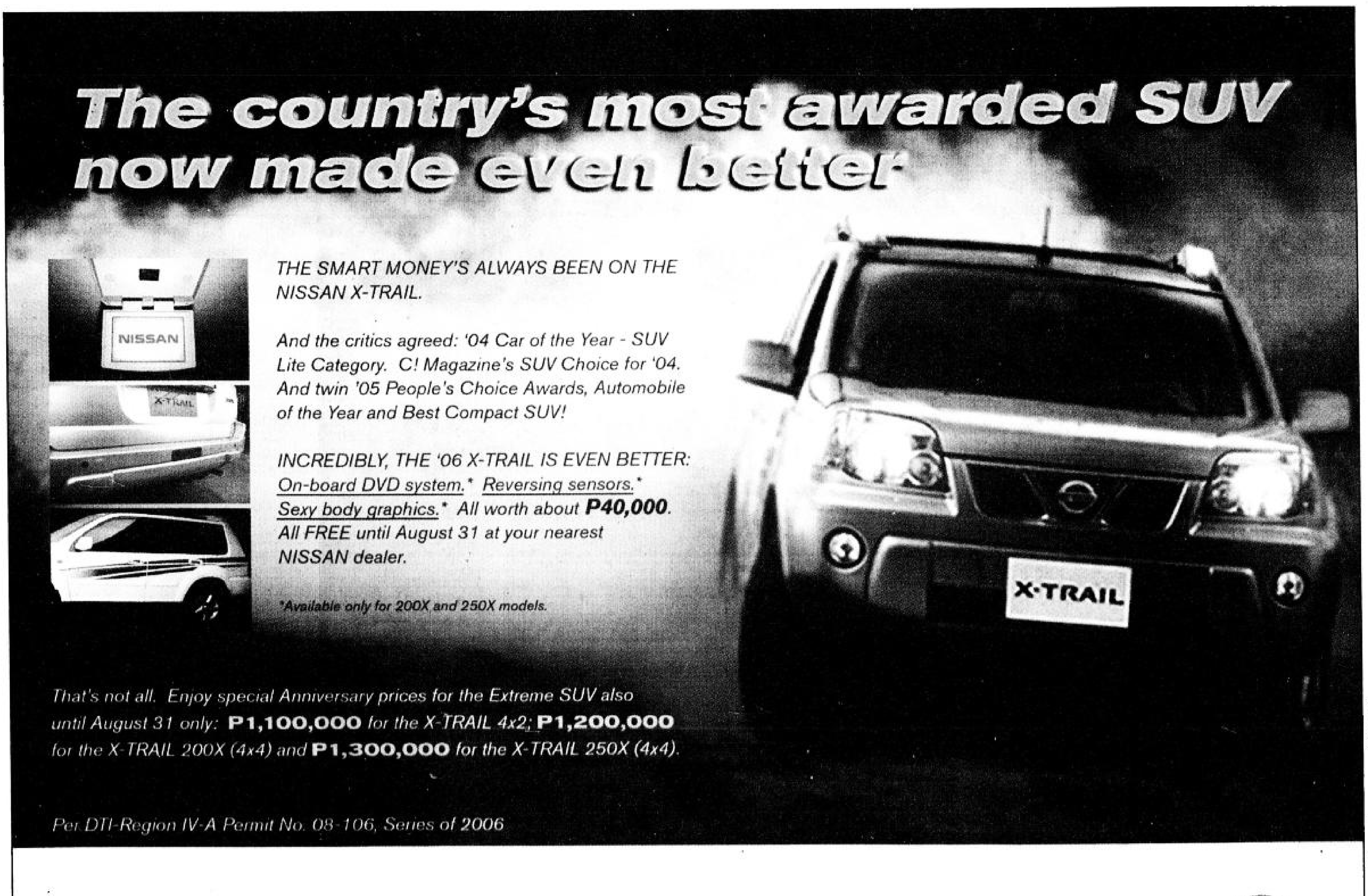
Jolo Opulencia beat Russell Arcilla Jr., 7-5, 6-2, to march into the 18-under finals against Mark Balce, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over James Canete.

Balce also made the 16-under finals, beating Jose Lorenzo Opulencia, 6-2, 6-1. He will take on Juan Fidel Regis, who bested Reymund Padigos, 7-6, 6-4, for the crown.

Boys' 14-under top seed Kyle Cordero prevailed over Jigo Pena, 6-4, 6-1, to set up a finals clash with No. 2 Jose Lorenzo Ferrer, a 3-6, 6-2, 7-5 winner over Leander Lazaro.

# Nietes whips Rubillar, gains IBF title shot

PHILIPPINE NO. 1 MINIMUMWEIGHT DONNIE NIETES TOTALLY DOMINATED Roberto Rubillar in their 10-round bout highlighting the "Thrilla in Minglanilla" Saturday night. The unanimous decision victory seals Nietes' IBF world title crack on Oct. 28 against Indonesia's Muhammad Rachman, which will be held on Borneo Island in Indonesia. Nietes, who entered the ring carrying his pet python, was in a target-practice mood all night, sending Rubillar on the defensive throughout. The sweet-punching Bacolod City-raised warrior who fights out of Cebu's ALA Gym improved his record to 18-1-3, (9 KOs). In the undercard, Rollen Del Castillo stopped Nelson Guidolan in the third round. The US-bound Reman Salim prevailed on a fifth-round technical knockout win over Marlou Ednay after sending down the latter twice in the second round. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*



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# Ano, Sugalan top Milo Subic elims

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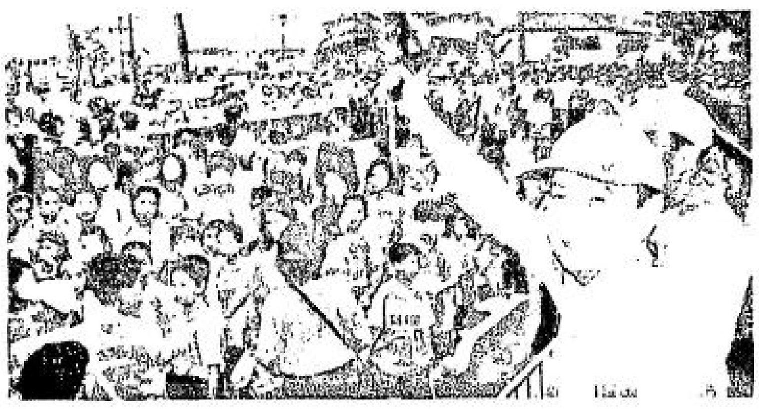

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ARMY

**SENATOR** Pia Cayetano negotiates the final kilometer of the 21K qualifying race inside the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Cayetano, a veteran duathlete, finished fourth. Above, left, Olongapo Mayor James Gordon, Jr. sends off the age-group runners. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Cayetano donates fourth-place cash

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE—THE RAINS came as a welcome boost for Jessie Ano and Vannesa Sugalan as they ruled the 21-kilometer elimination race of the 30th National Milo Marathon here yesterday.

The 21-year-old Ano finished the men's race in one hour, 14 minutes and 14 seconds while Sugalan ruled the women's division in one hour, 38 minutes and 57 seconds.

They won P10,000 each while making it to the 42K national finals on Dec. 10 in Metro Manila along with the runner-up and third placer in their respective categories.

Ano was challenged by Jefferson Valdez, a member of the RP duathlon team, early in the race but stormed away from his 27-year-old rival when the rains came midway in the competition.

"I like to run in the rain, you don't feel tired at all," said Ano in Filipino.

He came all the way from Davao City to join the race upon the urging of his brother Roel, a walkathon specialist who is a member of the national training pool billeted at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Valdez came in second in 1:19:02 while perennial top-three finisher Joseph Rosete was third in 1:20:07.

Sugalan said she was also used to running in the rain in the course of her two-month training for the race in Bulacan.

Leading all the way, Sugalan came home almost three minutes ahead of Olive Cortez, who checked in at 1:41:59. Merlyn Lumagbas was a far third in 1:56:58.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, a running and fitness enthusiast, placed fourth in the 21K race. She donated her cash purse to the other top 10 winners in the women's 21K run.

Both Ano and Sugalan are first-time leg winners in this foot race which attracted a record field of 10,895 runners and held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar.

The 5K fun run was dominated by Jun-jun Francia and Rea Pica. The 3K winners were James Santiago and Monica Queco in the 6-9 age category and Jay-ar Bote and Lorymay Abrero in the 10-12 group.

The 30-leg national foot race goes to Laoag City for the 15th elimination race on Aug. 20.

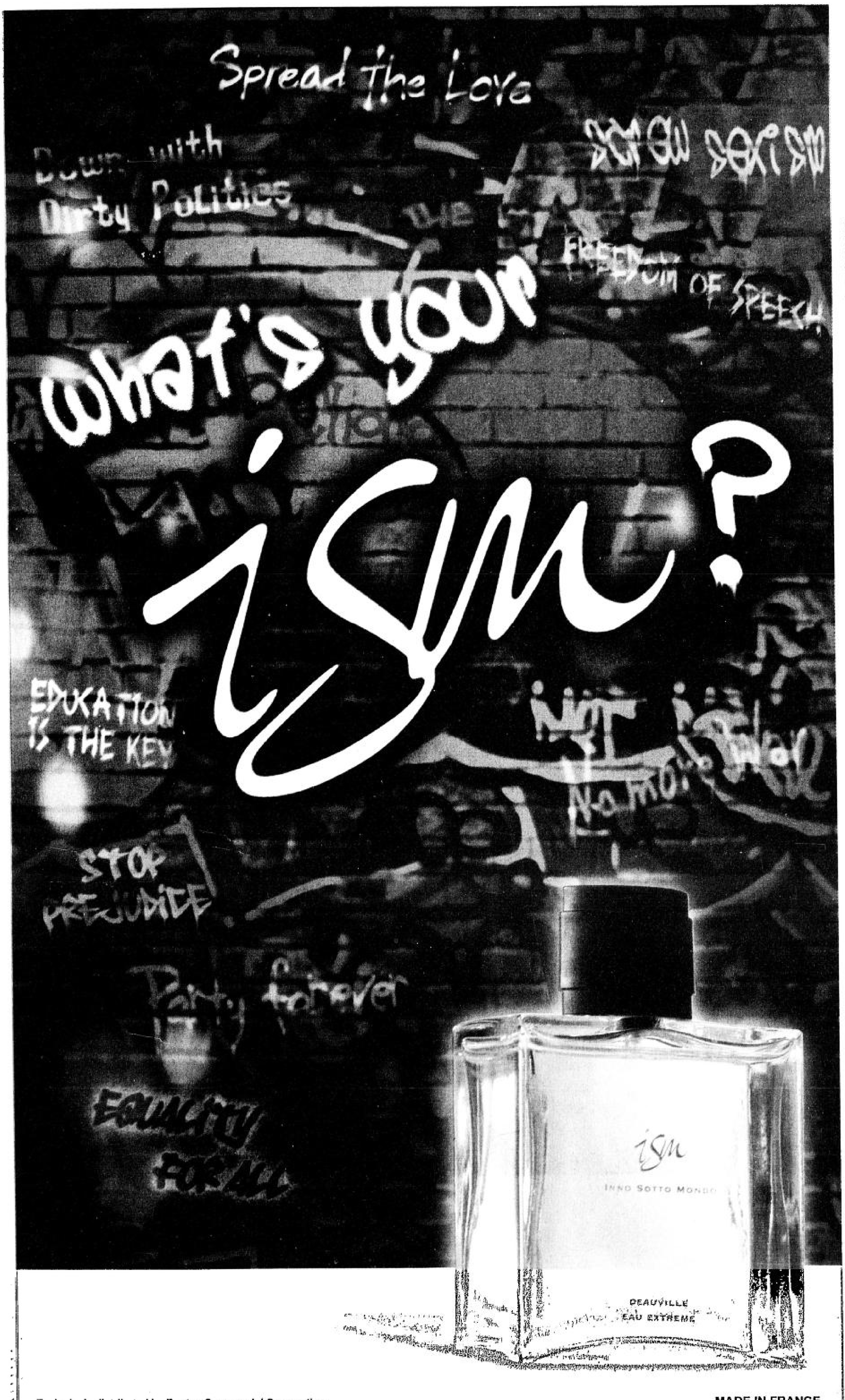
## Prizes up for grabs in Little Olympics

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND SPORTS equipment worth over P400,000 are up for grabs when the 2006 Milo Little Olympics-NCR kicks off on Sept. 2-3 and 9-10 at the Marikina Sports Park in Marikina City.

The overall top 10 schools in the high school and elementary competitions, plus the the meet's most outstanding athletes, will be rewarded for their feats in the 11 sports disciplines.

Schools may register at the games secretariat at the MSP. Deadline is on Monday, Aug. 21, according to the organizing CTW Group.

**The games' technical experts:** Alma Jocson, volleyball; Ben Silva-Netto, athletics; Jack Cayco, swimming; Aris Caslib, football; Col. Romarico Calderon, sepak takraw; Zollo Torres, table tennis; Mila Emperado, chess; Jason Razal, badminton; Rene Selmar, lawn tennis; Robert Tejada, gymnastics; Noel Veneracion, taekwondo.



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# Ayala, 3 other groups vie for Maynilad

## Marubeni drops out; bids to be opened Aug. 25

**By Michelle V. Remo and Christine A. Gaylican**

FOUR GROUPS, INCLUDING AYALA-OWNED MANILA Water Co. Inc., submitted last Friday their bids for the government's majority stake in Maynilad Water Services Inc., bolstering hopes that the beleaguered water concessionaire could be privatized before the end of the year.

The three other bidders were the consortium of DMCI Holdings and Metro Pacific Investment Corp., the Rubia Holdings-Noonday Asset Management Asia Pte., and the Karunakaran Ramchand of India.

A source from the board of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), the government agency that holds the state's equity stake in Maynilad, said another pre-

AYALA/ B2

IN THIS ISSUE

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**No Free Lunch** Capping trade /B2

# Banks' bad loans shrink to ₱136.5B

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE BAD LOANS RATIO OF PHILIPPINE commercial banks dropped to a post-Asian currency turmoil low of 7.22 percent in end-June from 7.36 percent the previous month as the decline in soured loans outpaced the contraction in total loan portfolio.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that the non-performing loan (NPL) ratio of universal and commercial banks continued to decline even as new lending activities remained sluggish.

A year ago, the sector's NPL ratio stood at a much higher 9.21 percent of total loans.

The banking industry's total NPLs declined by 3.28 percent over the previous month while the total loan portfolio shrunk by 1.38 percent.

In nominal terms, the NPLs declined by P4.62 billion to P136.5 billion while total loan portfolio dipped by P26.52 billion to P1.89 trillion.

On the other hand, the sector's non-performing assets—or NPLs plus real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoa)—also improved to 7.69 percent as a ratio of total loans in end-June from 7.97 percent in May.

In peso terms, the industry's NPAs amounted to P319.27 billion, of which Ropoa accounted for P192.4 billion.

BANKS/ B2

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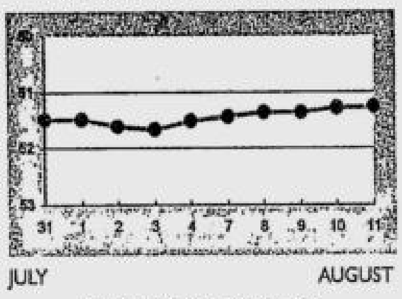

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2006

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 11, 2006

GOLD: $641.30-641.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 11, 2006

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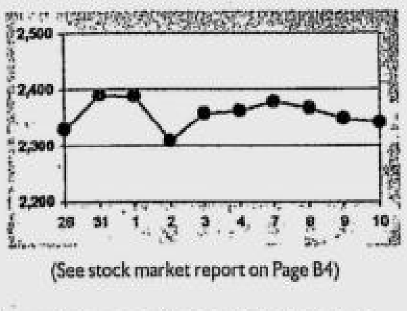


(See stock market report on Page B4)

## Cautious trading seen

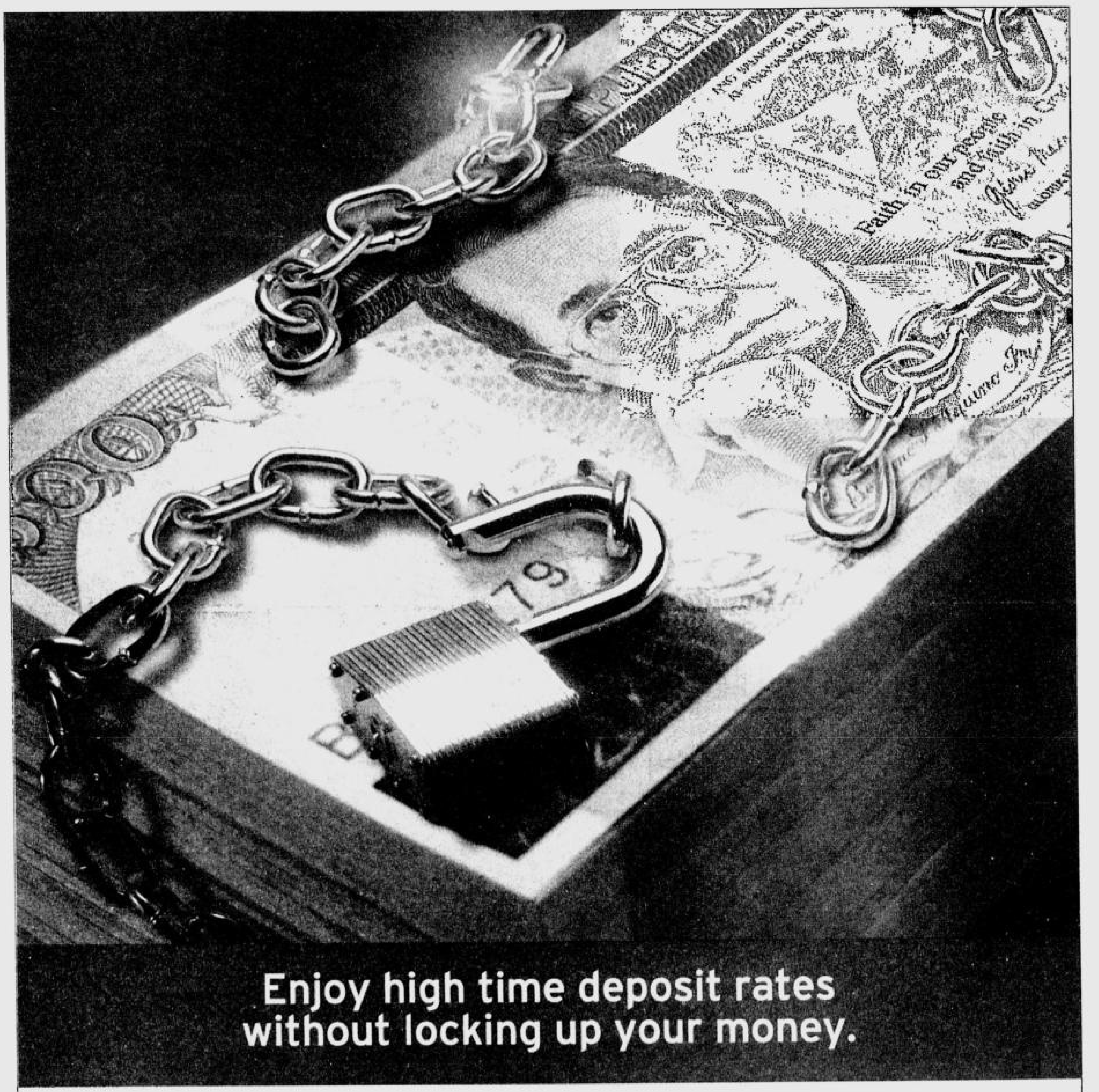
INVESTORS ARE EXPECTED TO REMAIN cautious this week due to rising oil prices, linked to renewed terrorist threats abroad and the escalating war in the Middle East.

"The local equities market is expected to remain in a corrective mode this week. No matter how positive the economic and corporate fundamentals may look, there always seems to be something to worry about. The concerns are mostly external," said AB Capital Securities in a weekly note to clients.

AB Capital said the Federal Reserve's move to keep interest rates unchanged last week kept global investors guessing whether or not policy rates have ended their uptrend.

Investor fears were also revived last week after crude oil prices rose to $77.44 a barrel. "Resilient oil prices have fanned inflationary

SHARES/ B2



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# ePLDT unit spends $35M to buy US outsource firm

## Boost to medical transcription business

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

SPI TECHNOLOGIES INC., A WHOLLY owned subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s information and communications technology arm ePLDT, has expanded its global healthcare business by acquiring US-based medical transcription firm CyMed Inc. for $35 million.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ePLDT said the acquisition positioned SPi as the third-biggest company in the global outsourced medical transcription industry. SPi is engaged in business process outsourcing (BPO) mainly for the publishing, legal and healthcare industries.

"The addition of CyMed will accelerate SPi's participation in the growing medical transcription industry, which analysts forecast to grow 16 percent a year, from $2.6 billion in 2005 to $4.2 billion in 2008," said ePLDT president and CEO Ray C. Espinosa.

SPi is among the leading full-service BPO providers with offices and facilities across North America, Europe and Asia. Together with ePLDT's Ventus Group, the company has 11,000 employees delivering a wide range of call center and outsourced solutions to financial services, healthcare, legal and publishing markets. SPi said its services has consistently improved operating efficiency, lowered costs and helped to strengthen the competitive position of more than 150 customers.

CyMed, on the other hand, employs 650 US-based staff and has offices in Virginia, Tennessee and Ohio. The medical transcription company generated a net income of $824,000 on revenues of $19.6 million in 2005.

Dave Woodrow, president and COO of SPi's healthcare division, will lead the combined SPi-CyMed group. CyMed president and CEO Robert Lynch will join the SPi senior management team but his position has yet to be announced.

SPi president and CEO Ernest L. Cu said: "The CyMed acquisition makes us fairly unique in the marketplace with a balanced and deep pool of talent across our centers of excellence in the US, the Philippines and India. CyMed's significant US presence will further strengthen our ability to deliver high quality, high volume transcription services around the clock, around the globe."

CyMed, which is based in Richmond, Virginia, provides medical transcription services to more than 400 healthcare systems, independent hospitals, and government-affiliated clinics in all US states except Alaska.

"The management team of CyMed is equally pleased with the business combination," Lynch said. "We are very comfortable with this sale because we know that our customers will continue to receive the high level of service that they expect."

# Capping trade

**NO FREE LUNCH**

*Cielito F. Habito*

THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION HAS EMBRACED globalization, but has globalization embraced the region's poor?

This question is raised by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in its recently released Asia-Pacific Human Development Report 2006, entitled "Trade on Human Terms: Transforming Trade for Human Development in Asia and the Pacific." Its Philippine launch will be held this week (Aug. 17) at the University of the Philippines National College for Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG).

### Jobless trade

The report observes that Asia-Pacific has become the factory of the world, as even goods and services previously considered non-tradable have increasingly been subject to international trade. Thus, apart from cheap labor-intensive manufactures and high-tech products, jobs are being provided by overseas employment, business process outsourcing, and special-interest (e.g. medical) tourism.

Still, the trade-induced dynamic economic growth in the region has not been matched by a commensurate growth in jobs. While the Asia-Pacific economy as a whole created 337 million jobs in the 1980s, it managed to create barely half that—176 million—in the 1990s, the period coinciding with trade expansion. In the sharpest illustration of "jobless growth," the report found that while manufacturing output in East Asia increased by almost 180 percent in the 1990s, the associated employment increased by only 3 percent. The outcome was even worse for agriculture, where employment actually fell, with rural dwellers seeking opportunities in other sectors of the economy.

### Eight-point strategy

While the Arroyo administration has BEAT THE ODDs to sum up its 10-point agenda (rated in last week's No Free Lunch column), UNDP offers an eight-point strategy to humanize trade in this era of globalization, which can be captured, aptly enough, in the mnemonic CAP TRADE, as follows:

Competitiveness investments. Countries need to prioritize investments that would improve their competitiveness in international trade. Intensified investments in education, including technical and tertiary education, are critical to improved productivity. So are investments in research and development, especially for agriculture.

Avoid jobless growth. Fiscal incentives that artificially make capital more attractive than labor must be phased out. Interest rates need to be recalibrated to avoid distorting relative capital-labor costs. In general, labor market policies need to encourage flexibility while facilitating retraining, in the face of rapid changes in production sectors as economies inevitably face greater international competition.

Persist with multilateralism. For all its faults and secretive processes, the multilateral WTO is still a better option if it offers some consistent basic ground rules. For most countries, especially smaller, poorer ones, the alternative is worse—bilateral control by one or two major powers. But the multilateral system must allow them broader special and differential trade treatment, duty-free access for certain goods, and targeted aid for trade, including capacity-building for effective trade negotiations.

Tax equitably. Governments must ensure that new taxes are equitable and protect the poor. Measures to curb tax evasion need to be strengthened, while promising new areas for progressive taxation such as taxes on wealth, real estate and capital gains need to be explored and used more widely.

Regional cooperation. Regional trade agreements need to be strengthened, and complemented by coordinative financial mechanisms such as pooling of foreign exchange reserves and development of an Asian bond market.

Agriculture focus. The bulk of the region's poor depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for a living. Countries must emphasize investment in rural development, manage tariffs on food imports, and work to ensure that global trade negotiations agree on special safeguard mechanisms to uphold the welfare of small farmers in the region.

Deliberate trade and industrial policies. Liberalization, while ultimately desirable, must be deliberately managed and appropriately timed to avoid opening up too early. There may be scope for introducing properly sequenced tariff barriers with a clear time frame as an interim measure against negative short term employment impacts of wider trade.

Exchange rate stability. There is need for active, realistic exchange rate management that values currencies neither too high nor too low, and avoids the wild swings in exchange rates that have had strong destabilizing effects on vulnerable economies in the region.

Only through the above, the report argues, can globalization be made to embrace the poor in the Asia-Pacific region, and elsewhere in the globe.

*Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

# Cautious trading seen

From page B1

worries in the US, complementing pressure that higher energy prices will eventually cut down corporate profits on a global scale," AB Capital said.

The PSEi ended lower last week, dragged down by some unexciting earnings results from companies in the second quarter.

AB Capital said that with low buying interest among blue chips, trading shifted to mining stocks, which received significant attention anew given the recovery of international gold prices and improving corporate prospects. Gold prices managed to climb above $660 an ounce last week due to strong buying interest given renewed inflationary threats and a weaker dollar.

Good earnings also boosted the mining sector. Philex Mining reported that net income for the first semester hit P1.2 billion, a tenfold increase from a year earlier. The significant jump was due to higher average metal prices of $3.11 a pound for copper and $577 an ounce for gold this year against $1.57 and $405 in 2005.

Global Equities Inc. also hit a high of 48 centavos last week. GEI assigned assets worth roughly P864 million (in book value) in favor of outgoing chair Nora Bitong as payment for advances she extended to GEI. She will also assume all the liabilities of GEI and its subsidiaries amounting to P1.1 billion. Stockbroker Jerry Angping was elected as the new chair of the overhauled GEI, which is identifying businesses that will enhance the company's value.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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# Ayala, 3 other groups vie for Maynilad

From page B1

qualified bidder—Marubeni Corp. of Japan—backed out after it failed to get a Filipino partner.

Bidding rules require that a participating group must be 60-percent owned by Filipinos.

Manabu Sugawara, Marubeni's assistant manager for environment infrastructure investment, said they would continue to seek other water infrastructure projects in the country.

He noted that the company was inclined to participate even in the final stages of re-privatizing the west concession if they would be allowed to take part in it.

The MWSS source said the bid envelopes would be opened on Aug. 25. The Privatization Council will then assess the bids and decide on the winning bidder.

The government has set a floor price of $56.4 million for its 83.97-percent stake in Maynilad. The minimum bid price is on top of the required $30-million performance bond.

The Consunji group's DMCI Holdings is forming a 50-50 partnership with Metro Pacific.

The Ayala Group's Manila Water reported that it holds 47.64 percent of the consortium made up of BPI Capital Investments Inc. (17.86-percent equity); British Virgin Islands-based JW International Corp. (11.91 percent) and WZ Co. Inc. of Mauritius (22.59 percent).

Singapore-based Noonday-Rubia consortium is led by Rubia Holdings Ltd. (based in Cayman Islands) with a 20-percent equity; Malaysian YTL Power International Berhad, 20 percent; local firm Daiichi Properties and Development Inc., 30 percent, and ABP Holdings Corp. of Luis B. Puyat, 30 percent.

The fourth group is led by Strategic Alliance Holdings Inc. of Cesar Quiambao with a 60-percent stake and Indian firm Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. taking the remaining 40 percent.

The government took over Maynilad after its previous owner, the Lopez group, failed to pay concession fees to MWSS. The unpaid concession fees had ballooned to about P8 billion.

The Lopez-owned Maynilad won the right to operate the water concessionaire in the west zone of Metro Manila in 1997. But the firm had to file for rehabilitation after six years of operations, weighed down by huge foreign obligations totalling P11 billion.

These debts were temporarily assumed by the MWSS, but will be transferred to the winning bidder as stated in the terms of reference of the privatization approved by the MWSS board.

Concerns have been raised on the move of Manila Water to join the bidding as the Ayala-owned firm could enjoy a monopoly if it were to win the concession for the west zone. Manila Water serves the east zone.

The source said the concerns were discussed by the MWSS board, but later on decided to still allow Manila Water to participate in the bidding.

# Banks' bad loans shrink to P136.5B

From page B1

The BSP reported that the decline in the NPL ratio was due to the increase in loans exempted from the non-performing classification, the sale of some sourced loans, write-offs and loan settlements.

Exclusive of inter-bank loans, the industry's NPL ratio also improved to 8.71 percent from the previous month's 8.87 percent and 11 percent a year ago.

The weak lending growth in the country was usually attributed to banks' high non-performing loans and assets, weak capital base and high lending rates despite falling treasury bill and bond yields.

Meanwhile, the BSP said the restructured loans barely moved at 5.11 percent of total loans in end-June from the previous month's 5.1 percent while restructured loans that turned bad anew moved up to 46.72 percent of total restructured loans from 46.71 percent the month before. A debt restructuring can cover a whole range of debt concessions—including the stretching out of maturities and lowering of interest rates—to give the borrower some room to breath and a chance to revive its business.

In terms of provisioning, the BSP said the coverage ratio for NPLs stood at 80.96 percent of total bad loans and 40.96 percent of total NPAs.

Although Philippine banks are still saddled with sizeable foreclosed properties or Ropoa, the booming property sector is seen to help them unlock better values from these idle assets.

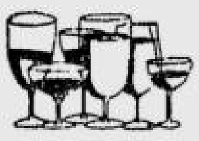
"The resurgence in the property market and the ongoing structural improvements in the economy have spurred the appetite of distressed asset bidders for non-performing assets," said UBS Securities analyst Minda Olonan.

"As past asset sales largely focused on non-performing loans, we believe the P196 billion worth of foreclosed properties (5 percent of gross assets) still sitting in banks' portfolios will be the target of the next wave of NPA workouts," she said in a paper.

Olonan also noted that the structural shifts among the economy's growth drivers—given the growing importance of the less capital-intensive service sector and continued weakness in the manufacturing and trade sectors—had kept loan demand in check.

# Gokongwei does a Buffett

## COCKTALES



*Victor C. Agustin*

JOHN GOKONGWEI JR. SURPRISED HIS children and business associates at his 80th birthday party celebrations Friday by announcing that he would donate his personal shareholdings in JG Summit Holdings—equivalent to 25 percent of the listed conglomerate or about P10.25 billion—to charity.

Mr. John and his wife Elizabeth control half of JG Summit, which had a market capitalization of P41.46 billion as of last week.

Mr. John's conjugal half would accrete to the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, which already owns 16.61 percent of JG Summit.

Mr. John said the considerable paperwork for the transfer would take at least two weeks.

Once completed, the transfer would make the Gokongwei foundation the biggest shareholder, at 41.6 percent, of the food, airline, telephone and real estate conglomerate.

In peso terms, the additional transfer effectively places more than P17 billion of Gokongwei wealth, worthy of a local Warren Buffett, for disposal to their favorite charities, mainly schools.

And the newest beneficiary, for P50 million, would be, the taipan announced, the University of San Carlos in Cebu, where Gokongwei put himself to high school during the war years while buying-and-selling goods on his bicycle.

That rusty bike sowed the seeds that blossomed into an Asian business empire that is also celebrating its 50th year.

Saying he had already exceeded by 10 years the average life span of Filipinos, Mr. John announced that he wants to devote more time to "philanthropy, reading and travelling," much to the feigned relief of his children, nephews, nieces and Mr. John's youngest brother, JG Summit chair/CEO James Go, who all work for what effectively is Gokongwei Inc.

As in his 75th birthday celebration when he first announced his "retirement," the ballroom of the Gokongwei-owned Crowne Plaza overflowed with more than 1,000 officers and employees and business partners from the region and as far away as New York and Romania.

Even the sons of competitor taipans, Alfred Ty and Henry Sy Jr., showed up, as well as PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno.

The six Gokongwei children, their husbands and wife, and nine grandchildren joined Mrs. John and emcee Karen Davila of ABS-CBN in singing on stage "Happy Birthday" after a rousing Broadway-style medley of songs from Lea Salonga, Robert Sena, Isay Alvarez, JR, The Company and Whiplash.

But not after Mr. John's best friends, retired Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson and banker Antonio Go, brought the house down with their irreverent, off-key version of "My Way."

And, in a further sign that the proudly parsimonious clan loosened the purse strings a wee bit, the Gokongweis even took out eight-page supplements in three leading dailies for the milestone event.

Still, Mr. John's lone son, Lance, could not help but tell Audi car dealer Robert Coyiuto Jr. that his budget for the hot Q7 SUV "already went to the talent fee of Lea Salonga" as Mrs. John, true to family tradition, was imploring friends to take home leftover lechon.

Coyiuto, incidentally, vigorously denies the Manila Golf chatter that he is behind the fake-Macario Te letter that had been sent to and caught the ire of the Supreme Court. But that, whoops, is another story.

### Money-go-round

- EVEN the names of Piatco's Jeffrey Cheng and Jefferson Cheng have emerged in the trail of multimillion-peso disbursements from the HSBC account of Piatco moneybag Alfonso Liongson, according to anti-money laundering records now with the Philippine government.
- TO wean away customers from paper ticketing, Northwest is offering 5-percent discount for Internet bookings for its $550-lean season fare to the West Coast out of Manila.

### Heard through the grapevine

ENCOURAGED by their alliance in Marikina where the Gokongweis operate the supermarket in a George Ty mall-residential complex, taipan son Alfred Ty is offering a still hush-hush venture with the Gokongweis in the reclaimed area closer to Roxas Boulevard than the Sys' Mall of Asia.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

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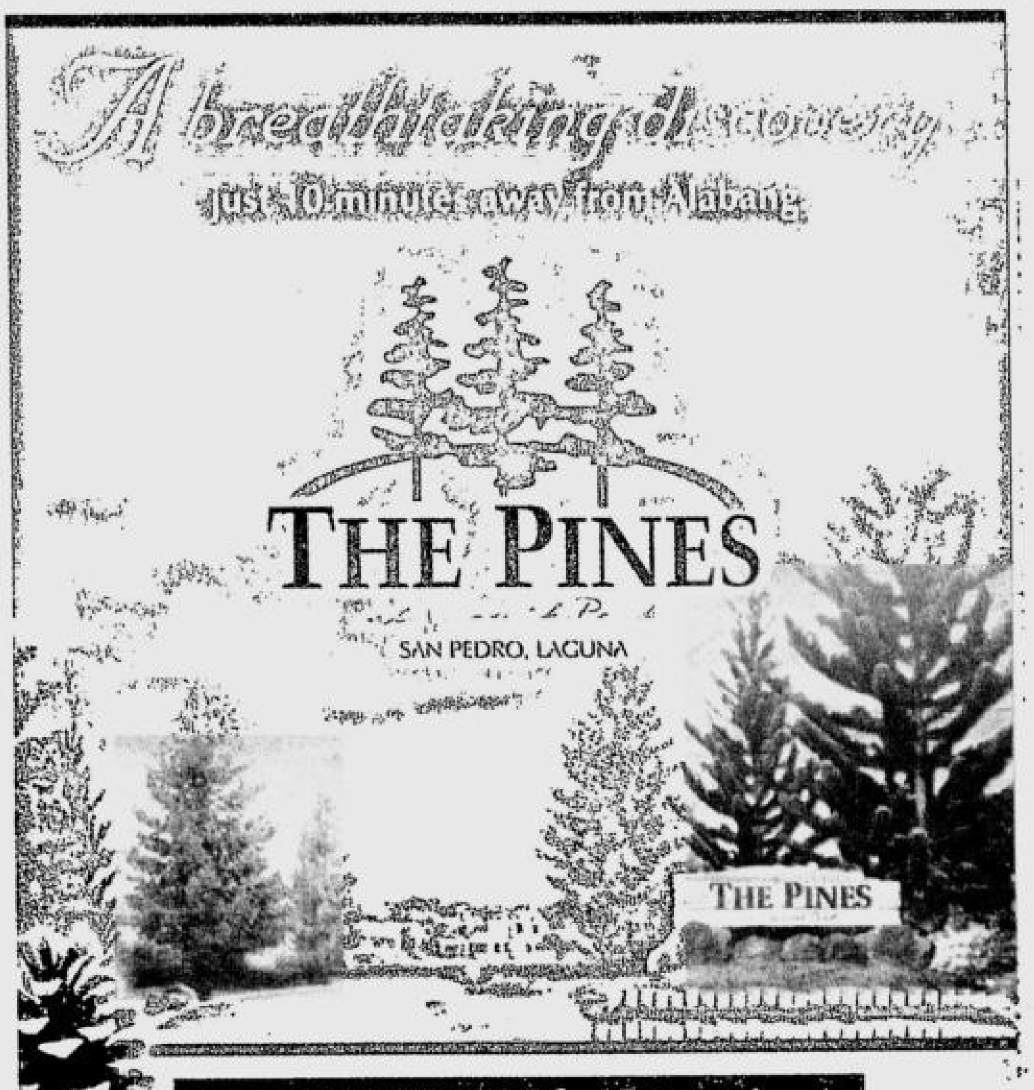

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The FOREST PRODUCTS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (FPRDI), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors and contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of the following Laboratory & Office Equipment:

| | ITEMS | | APPROVED BUDGET |
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| 1 unit | Hygrometer/Thermometer Recorder | Php | 88,000.00 |
| 1 unit | Manual Sample Punch for Stiffness-Tester 38 x 75mm | Php | 107,000.00 |
| 1 unit | Sample Cutter 430 mm | Php | 78,000.00 |
| 2 units | Laboratory Fumehood 59" @ Php 75,750/unit | Php | 151,500.00 |
| 1 unit | Analytical Balance with 220g range and Sensitivity of +-0.0001 g. | Php | 189,500.00 |
| 1 unit | Elrepho – Brightness, Opacity and Color Tester | Php | 2,100,000.00 |
| 1 unit | Software for Tensile-Tester | Php | 115,000.00 |
| 1 unit | Plain Paper Copier | Php | 95,000.00 |
| 4 units | Air Conditioner 2Hp, Manual | Php | 80,000.00 |

Location - Los Baños, Laguna

Total Approved Budget for the Contract - Php 3,004,000.00

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders for issuance on Aug. 7-22, 2006 at the office of the BAC Secretariat, FPRDI, College, Laguna upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).

FPRDI reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all the bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL C. HERRERA
BAC, Chairman

(PDI–August 7 & 14, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CALUMPIT WATER DISTRICT
Calumpit, Bulacan
Tel. Nos. (044) 675-2680, 202-5479
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The CALUMPIT WATER DISTRICT, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder project

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | CWD Office Building Construction |
| Brief Description | Three-Storey Office Building with Roof Deck |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | Php 17,602,384.00 |
| Contract Duration | 240 Regular Working Days |

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with the value at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows.

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1 Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility | up to August 28, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m. |
| 2 Submission of Eligibility Requirements | August 29, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m. |
| 3 Results of Eligibility Check and Short-listing | September 4, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m. |
| 4 Issuance of Bid Documents | September 5 to 7, 2006 @ 4:00 p.m. |
| 5 Pre Bid Conference | September 11, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m. |
| 6 Receipt and Opening of Bids | September 25, 2006 @ 2:00 p.m. |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Calumpit Water District – Commercial Department Office at Corazon, Calumpit, Bulacan upon submission of LOI and upon a payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.00 to Calumpit Water District Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the Notice of Eligibility from the BAC at the same address

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 10,000.00 to Calumpit Water District Cashier. The bidders may submit their bids and transact business with BAC Chairman, Mrs. Elvira M. Rañopa

The Calumpit Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Date of Publication: August 14 & August 21, 2006

(Sgd.) MRS. ELVIRA M. RAÑOPA
BAC – Chairman

(PDI–August 14 & 21, 2006)

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# SMC expected to pursue hybrid bond float worth $500M in '07

## *BDO plan to issue debt paper OKd*

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has approved Banco de Oro Universal Bank's plan to issue up to P5 billion worth of long-term negotiable certificates of deposits (LTNCDs).

BDO tapped Standard Chartered Bank to arrange the domestic offering of five-year LTNCDs in several tranches starting this September, banking sources said.

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the LTNCD proposal in its meeting last Thursday.

LTNCDs are negotiable certificates of deposit indicating the amount of indebtedness of a bank with a designated maturity. These represent the bank's obligation to pay the LTNCD's face value upon maturity and the specified quarterly interest during the life of the certificate of deposit.

As these instruments are negotiable, they can be liquidated anytime at current market prices. They are also covered by insurance under Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

The issuance of LTNCDs is expected to help mobilize savings and encourage long-term investments from individual investors. Investments in LTNCDs are exempt from withholding tax if held to maturity.

Last year, BDO issued P5 billion worth of five-year LTNCDs in two tranches, seeking to diversify the maturity profile.

These instruments catered to individuals and corporations in search of a good investment alternative.

As a deposit hybrid, the LTNCDs are competitively priced, carrying a premium over the 3-month Treasury bill benchmark rate (MART1).

BDO, the banking arm of retail tycoon Henry Sy, posted a net profit of P1.26 billion in the first half, up by 6 percent from year-ago level, on higher interest earnings and trading gains.

Total resources for the first half of 2006 stood at P284.3 billion, 45 percent higher than the P196.8 billion in the same period last year. The growth was fueled by a 51-percent increase in investment securities to P119.5 billion from P79.4 billion in the first half of last year.

## Philbev audit completed

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

FOOD AND BEVERAGE GIANT San Miguel Corp. is keen on reviving a plan to issue $500 million worth of hybrid bonds most likely next year.

The float, which generated $750 million worth of orders when introduced to the market last April, was shelved by SMC in the same month to pave the way for the audit of its books over allegations that a subsidiary, Philippine Beverage Partners Inc., had overstated its sales.

INQUIRER sources said Laya Mananghaya & Co., which replaced SGV & Co. as the conglomerate's external auditor, had completed the review. They, however, refused to divulge the results of the review. The sources said SMC was just awaiting the auditor's clearance before making new plans for the float.

Analysts who attended SMC's recent investor briefing said SGV, under an agreement with the conglomerate, had to review and concur to the audit report prepared by Laya Mananghaya.

The review of SMC's books was triggered by an anonymous and undated letter alleging that Philbev overstated its sales. Philbev accounted for 2.1 percent of SMC's group-wide sales of P227 billion last year.

Laya Mananghaya is an affiliate of global tax, audit and advisory services firm KPMG Group. It was appointed as SMC's external auditor when the conglomerate and SGV & Co. decided to end their business arrangement. SGV served as SMC's auditor for nine years.

SMC earlier formed San Miguel Capital Funding Ltd. to issue the hybrid bonds. The company had held roadshows in Singapore, Hong Kong, Geneva and London to introduce the bonds to investors. Previous reports indicated that SMC was planning to use the proceeds from the bond issuance to prepay $300 million worth of outstanding debts.

As of Dec. 31 last year, SMC's total long-term debt stood at P94 billion or $1.8 billion. The hybrid securities, dubbed as a benchmark size offering of "perpetual, non-cumulative, non-voting preferred shares," would be a mix of equity and debt. The preferred shares would pay a fixed return and would be callable five years after the issuance.

In another development, SMC said Ginebra San Miguel Inc.'s recovery efforts were hampered by a slowdown in demand and the rising costs of raw materials and packaging products. Ginebra's operating income dropped by 9 percent in the first half of this year to P709 million from year-ago level.

Revenue fell one percent in the same period to P6.1 billion, while net income went down by 30 percent.

# Metrobank OKs 3% cash dividend

THE BOARD OF METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. approved on Friday the declaration of a 3-percent cash dividend, which would translate to P980.2 million to be paid to stockholders.

Metrobank assistant corporate secretary Antonio Viray told the Philippine Stock Exchange that the 3-percent cash dividend was equivalent to 60 centavos per share based on the par value of P20 per share.

"The bank has shown good results so far this year and we're happy to share some of these gains with our shareholders," Metrobank's president Arthur Ty said.

The group's parent company recently reported an increase of P792 million or 35.1 percent in its net income for the first half of the year to P3.04 billion from year-ago level.

The dividends will be paid to stockholders of record as of the date to be set by the bank president when the dividend declaration is approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The P980.2 million cash value of the 3-percent dividend was based on the bank's outstanding capital stock of P32.7 billion.

For 2005, the bank declared a total of 5 percent in cash dividends for a total cash value of P1.6 billion.

Metrobank is the country's largest bank in terms of consolidated total assets, which stood at P593.9 billion as of end-June 2006. Metrobank owns the second largest thrift bank in the country, Philippine Savings Bank as well as investment house First Metro Investment Corp.

It has more than 800 international and domestic branches, offices, subsidiaries and affiliates

The bank also remained the largest lender as of the first semester of 2006 with P264.3 billion in consolidated net loans. It increased its consolidated total deposits to P442.57 billion as of end June 2006, from P424.3 billion as of end-2005.

*Doris C. Dumlao*

G & W clubshares
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| CLUB | SELLER | BUYER |
|---|---|---|
| Alabang Country Club A/B* | 1,075,000/1,200,000* | 1,000,000 |
| Alta Vista B/Corp.* | - | Pls. Call/300,000* |
| Baguio Country Club | 550,000 | 500,000 |
| Camp John Hay | Pls. Call | 260,000 |
| Canyon Woods | 120,000 | - |
| Capitol Hills | 55,000 | - |
| Cebu Country Club | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Celebrity Sports | 120,000 | 90,000 |
| Club Filipino | 100,000 | - |
| Eagleridge A/B*/C** | 320,000*/Pls. Call | Pls. Call* |
| Eastridge A/B* | Pls. Call | - |
| Evercrest | 65,000 | - |
| Fairways & Bluewater | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Forest Hills A/B*/C** | 100,000/170,000* | Pls. Call* |
| Luisita Golf | Pls. Call | 330,000 |
| Manila Golf Corporate | Pls. Call | 12,000,000 |
| Manila Golf Individual | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Manila Polo | 2,900,000 | 2,700,000 |
| Manila Southwoods A/B* | Pls. Call* | 330,000 |
| Makati Sports Club | 180,000 | 160,000 |
| Manila Yacht Club Ind. | 280,000 | - |
| Metropolitan Club A/B* | 160,000 | 110,000 |
| Mimosa Ind./C2*/C3** | Pls. Call | Pls. Call/500,000** |
| Mt. Malarayat A | 180,000 | - |
| Orchard A/B*/C** | 180,000/Pls. Call*/400,000** | 150,000/350,000** |
| Punta Fuego | 400,000 | - |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 160,000 | Pls. Call |
| Riviera Golf A/B*/C** | 90,000/190,000*/250,000** | Pls. Call* |
| Rockwell Leisure Club | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Royale Tagaytay CC | 60,000 | - |
| Sherwood A/B*/C** | 70,000/150,000** | - |
| Sta. Elena Golf A/B* | 1,150,000 | 1,100,000/1,550,000* |
| Subic Golf | 190,000 | - |
| The Palms Country Club | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Tagaytay Country Club | 340,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 700,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Midlands | Pls. Call | 600,000 |
| The Country Club | 2,000,000 | - |
| Tower Club | 150,000 | - |
| Valley Golf | 220,000 | - |
| Valle Verde Ind. | 100,000 | - |
| Wack Wack Golf | Pls. Call | 6,200,000 |

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# RFM 6-month net income hits ₱95M

FOOD AND BEVERAGE firm RFM Corp. said its net income grew four-fold to P95 million in the first half of the year from year-ago's P18.6 million.

In a statement, the company said its operating income in the six-month period grew 23 percent to P188 million from P153 million last year. Its net sales during the period were almost the same as last year's level at P2.93 billion.

RFM Corp. said it continued to focus on fewer but stronger products and on the consolidation of its sales and distribution units nationwide.

The company attributed the profit growth the strong performance of its flour, pasta, baked goods and ice cream businesses. It said the other businesses—including meat, milk, juices and property development—continued to work on lowering their cost structures and improving their margins.

In another development, RFM said it had submitted its 2005 audited financial statements to the Philippine Stock Exchange. The 2005 report showed RFM's operating income grew to P357 million from P134 million in 2004, leading to a consolidated net income of P168.2 million for 2005.

Net sales of the group grew to P6 billion in 2005, from P5.85 billion in 2004.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

GG&A Club Shares
SEC License Broker # 00131 • As of August 14, 2006

| CLUB | SELLER | BUYER |
|---|---|---|
| Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino) | 1,075,000 | 1,030,000 |
| Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner) | 1,200,000 | 1,100,000 |
| Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club | Please Call | - |
| Baguio Country Club | 550,000 | - |
| Calatagan Golf Club "A" | 40,000 | 30,000 |
| Calatagan Golf Club "B" | 60,000 | - |
| Camp John Hay | 280,000 | 240,000 |
| Canlubang | 490,000 | 400,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 55,000 | - |
| Cebu Country Club | 1,900,000 | 1,400,000 |
| Celebrity Sports Club | 100,000 | - |
| Club Filipino | 95,000 | 80,000 |
| Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C" | Please Call | - |
| Forest Hills "A" | 100,000 | - |
| Forest Hills "B" | 200,000 | - |
| Forest Hills "C" | 200,000 | - |
| Makati Sports Club "A" | 190,000 | 180,000 |
| Makati Sports Club "B" | 250,000 | - |
| Manila Golf (Corporate) | - | 12,000,000 |
| Manila Golf (Individual) | - | 11,800,000 |
| Manila Polo | Please Call | 2,725,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A" | 330,000 | - |
| Manila Southwoods "B" | 700,000 | 630,000 |
| Manila Yacht Club | 280,000 | - |
| Mimosa (Individual) | 240,000 | 200,000 |
| Mimosa (Corporate) | - | 550,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat Golf "A" | 190,000 | - |
| Mt. Malarayat Golf "C" | 350,000 | - |
| Orchard Golf Club "A" | 180,000 | 160,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "B" | 350,000 | 250,000 |
| Orchard Golf Club "C" | 375,000 | - |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 150,000 | 125,000 |
| Sherwood "B" | - | 90,000 |
| Spa & Lodge | 550,000 | 450,000 |
| Sta. Elena "A" | 1,200,000 | 1,100,000 |
| Subic Bay Golf | 200,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Country Club | 320,000 | 290,000 |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 700,000 | 600,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands | 700,000 | - |
| Valle Verde (Individual) | 100,000 | - |
| Valle Verde (Corporate) | 200,000 | 150,000 |
| Valley Golf | 220,000 | 190,000 |
| Wack-Wack Golf Club | - | 6,200,000 |

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# Waterfront Cebu renovates suites

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL AND Casino, the flagship property of listed hotel operator Waterfront Philippines Inc. (WPI), is spending roughly P60 million to renovate its 35 hotel suites.

Renovation works, it said, would be completed by the end of October in time for the Asean Summit to be held in Cebu in December.

The new suites, designed by Anton Mendoza, will come in three categories executive, bridal and family. They will feature pieces of furniture from the best furniture makers in Cebu, which is famous for its world-class furniture designers and manufacturers. The fabrics and carpets to be used by the hotel will be flown in from Italy, while bathroom fixtures and flooring materials would be imported from the United States and Spain.

"Our new suites would be a blend of the best of local and imported materials, " according to the hotel's general manager Marco Protacio.

Company managers also added that the new rooms and suites of the hotel would be the biggest in terms of floor area in Cebu City, with superior rooms measuring up to 40 square meters each, while the executive, bridal and family suites will be about 55,100 and 130 square meters per unit, respectively. "The size of our suites will definitely ensure total guest comfort" said Karen Mendoza, the hotel's front office manager.

The company had conducted an extensive marketing research to determine its clients' needs and preferences. The new suites were designed based on the results of the research. With the traveling businessman in mind, the hotel operator equipped its executive suites with personal fax machines, flat-screen computers with high-speed broadband Internet access and premium coffee making facilities.

The bridal suites will be furnished with in-room Jacuzzis and state-of the art entertainment systems.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

## GOINGS-ON

### Best airline caterer

MACROASIA CATERING SERVICES was awarded the "Best Caterer 2005-Gold Award" by Cathay Pacific.

MacroAsia is one of the 40 airline catering companies serving Cathay Pacific worldwide.

"It is a proud moment for the entire MacroAsia Catering team. It is a testament of their hard work and concerted focus on quality that truly paid off," says Tomas Jämtander, the firm's general manager.

MacroAsia Catering Services is the leading airline caterer in the Philippines serving 15 international airlines, including KLM, Singapore Airlines, Qantas, Northwest, Emirates, Japan Airlines and Korean Air.

It is a joint venture between MacroAsia Corp. and SATS (Singapore Airport Terminal Services).

### Business confab

THE 14TH METRO MANILA BUSINESS Conference will be held on Aug. 16-17 at the Bellevue Hotel in Alabang Muntinlupa City.

It is jointly hosted by the five chambers of the South sector—Las Piñas, Makati, Muntinlupa, Parañaque and Pasay.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila will be its guest of honor and keynote speaker.

Francisco Colayco, chair of the Colayco Foundation of Education, will present a fearless forecast on the economy. A representative from the mass media will discuss how to access the world market through media.

The 14th MMBC is the fourth of the five regional area business conferences organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

The last area business conference for the year will be held in Zamboanga on Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 2006. The area business conferences will be followed by the holding of the 32nd Philippine Business Conference (PBC) in Manila Hotel on Oct. 16-20, 2006.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 11, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 32,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 32 | 32.5 | 32 | 32.5 | 92,000 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 52.5 | 53 | 52.5 | 52.5 | 720,500 |
| China Banking Corp. | 705 | 710 | 705 | 705 | 2,650 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 600 |
| Export and Ind. Bank A | 0.39 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.39 | 210,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 78 | 78.5 | 77.5 | 78.5 | 89,900 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 38.5 | 39 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 386,200 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 | 9,400 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 16.5 | 17 | 16.5 | 16.75 | 62,500 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 48 | 48.5 | 48 | 48.5 | 32,500 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 45 | 45.5 | 45 | 45.5 | 31,000 |
| **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 200,000 |
| Citiseconline.Com Inc. | 1.8 | 1.82 | 1.8 | 1.82 | 239,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp | 30 | 30.5 | 30 | 30.5 | 12,100 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1610 | 1610 | 1610 | 1610 | 200 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 700,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 218 | 219 | 218 | 218 | 2,510 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1920 | 1920 | 1920 | 1920 | 10 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1,260,000 |
| **INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 42.5 | 43.5 | 42.5 | 43.5 | 28,200 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp | 43.5 | 43.5 | 43.5 | 43.5 | 312,200 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.25 | 15.75 | 15.25 | 15.5 | 16,500 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 24.75 | 24.75 | 24.5 | 24.5 | 219,700 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 9 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 9 | 7,503,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 1,405,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 50,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.95 | 650,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| CADP Group Corp. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 9,000 |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 23.25 | 32,200 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 32 | 32 | 31.5 | 31.5 | 335,900 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 3.85 | 3.9 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 1,470,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 65 | 65 | 64.5 | 65 | 40,400 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 73.5 | 74.5 | 73.5 | 74.5 | 46,700 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 19.25 | 19.25 | 19 | 19 | 658,600 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 300,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.28 | 0.29 | 720,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2,989,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.85 | 232,000 |
| Phil Nat'l Const Corp. | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 10,000 |
| Republic Cement Corp. | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1.38 | 410,000 |
| **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 4.7 | 5 | 4.7 | 4.75 | 55,000 |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 20,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.42 | 0.45 | 0.4 | 0.42 | 101,150,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.08 | 0.0825 | 0.08 | 0.08 | 3,000,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 172,000,000 |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg B | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 5,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 412.5 | 412.5 | 410 | 410 | 92,000 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 170,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 31,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.034 | 0.035 | 0.03 | 0.035 | 105,200,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 200,000 |
| Apc Group Inc. | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 1,260,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0085 | 0.009 | 0.0085 | 0.009 | 109,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.95 | 0.98 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 2,060,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 150,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 2,863,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 295,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.75 | 2.75 | 45,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 100,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 79,000 |
| Keppel Holdings | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 10,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 200,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 100,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 10,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.2 | 0.22 | 0.195 | 0.21 | 13,050,000 |
| Solid Group Inc | 0.56 | 0.57 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 210,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.145 | 0.155 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 40,770,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 218 | 218 | 214 | 214 | 39,560 |
| South China Resources Inc | 0.9 | 0.91 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 440,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co | 0.145 | 0.155 | 0.12 | 0.125 | 70,910,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.13 | 0.135 | 0.13 | 0.135 | 1,420,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 13.25 | 13.5 | 13.25 | 13.5 | 5,611,900 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 60,000 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1 | 1 | 5,998,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.31 | 0.33 | 0.31 | 0.32 | 2,710,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc | 2.14 | 2.16 | 2.14 | 2.16 | 63,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.28 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 2,530,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 5,210,000 |
| Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc. | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 100,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.05 | 0.0575 | 0.05 | 0.0525 | 53,800,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.34 | 1.36 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 8,039,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc.B | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 510,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 2,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 16,000,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 10,000 |
| Marsteel Cons. Inc. A | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 1,000,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.48 | 19,929,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.235 | 0.24 | 4,690,000 |
| Mrc Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 10,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 2,040,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 11.75 | 11.75 | 11.5 | 11.75 | 85,900 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.43 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.43 | 5,600,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.68 | 1.7 | 1.68 | 1.7 | 1,067,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 8 | 8 | 7.8 | 7.9 | 2,325,000 |
| **SERVICE** | | | | | |
| **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 16.75 | 23,500 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 147,000 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 2,499,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 1020 | 1035 | 1020 | 1035 | 23,620 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.55 | 3.55 | 2,926,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 2010 | 2030 | 2010 | 2025 | 123,760 |
| **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.18 | 0.185 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 2,560,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2 | 2.06 | 2 | 2.04 | 195,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.047 | 0.047 | 0.046 | 0.046 | 3,000,000 |
| Ism Communications Corp. | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 32,500,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.03 | 0.031 | 39,100,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 60,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 14.75 | 15 | 14.75 | 15 | 302,900 |
| **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 662,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 2,309,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 200,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 250,000 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Far Eastern University | 985 | 985 | 985 | 985 | 200 |
| Ipeople Inc | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 10,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.06 | 2.08 | 215,000 |
| Paxys Inc | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 730,800 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 6,088,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 4.25 | 4.45 | 4.25 | 4.35 | 4,455,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 12,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 7.9 | 8.1 | 7.8 | 7.8 | 574,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 27,940,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 10,610,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.025 | 0.025 | 481,900,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.031 | 0.031 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 80,000,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0095 | 0.01 | 0.009 | 0.01 | 466,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 4.55 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 10,741,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 4.65 | 4.65 | 4.55 | 4.6 | 12,221,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 66,800 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.54 | 0.57 | 0.52 | 0.55 | 9,310,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 200,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 2,760,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 86,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 179,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.28 | 1.28 | 2,595,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1,079,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 14 | 14 | 12.75 | 12.75 | 370,800 |
| **PREFERRED** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. Pref. B | 103 | 103 | 103 | 103 | 4,890 |
| Pldt (10% Pref) Series F | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| **WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr) | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 4,000 |

## CURRENCIES

| August 13, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.781677 | 1.000000 | 51.2650 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006780 | 0.008674 | 0.4447 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.480263 | 1.893700 | 97.0805 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.100515 | 0.128589 | 6.5921 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.633399 | 0.810307 | 41.5404 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.693591 | 0.887311 | 45.4880 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.497503 | 0.636456 | 32.6279 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.602356 | 0.770594 | 39.5045 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.073525 | 2.652661 | 135.9887 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.208448 | 0.266667 | 13.6707 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.495925 | 0.634437 | 32.5244 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000086 | 0.000110 | 0.0056 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020845 | 0.026667 | 1.3671 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.212829 | 0.272272 | 13.9580 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.279300 | 65.5833 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.254825 | 0.325998 | 16.7123 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.361052 | 0.461894 | 23.6790 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134042 | 0.171480 | 8.7909 |
| India | Rupee | 0.016843 | 0.021547 | 1.1046 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.213485 | 0.273112 | 14.0011 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.072103 | 0.092242 | 4.7288 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.495203 | 0.633513 | 32.4770 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.125795 | 0.160930 | 8.2501 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012963 | 0.016584 | 0.8502 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.115890 | 0.148258 | 7.6004 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000816 | 0.001044 | 0.0535 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108834 | 0.139231 | 7.1377 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015058 | 0.019264 | 0.9876 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023955 | 0.030646 | 1.5711 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000364 | 0.000466 | 0.0239 |

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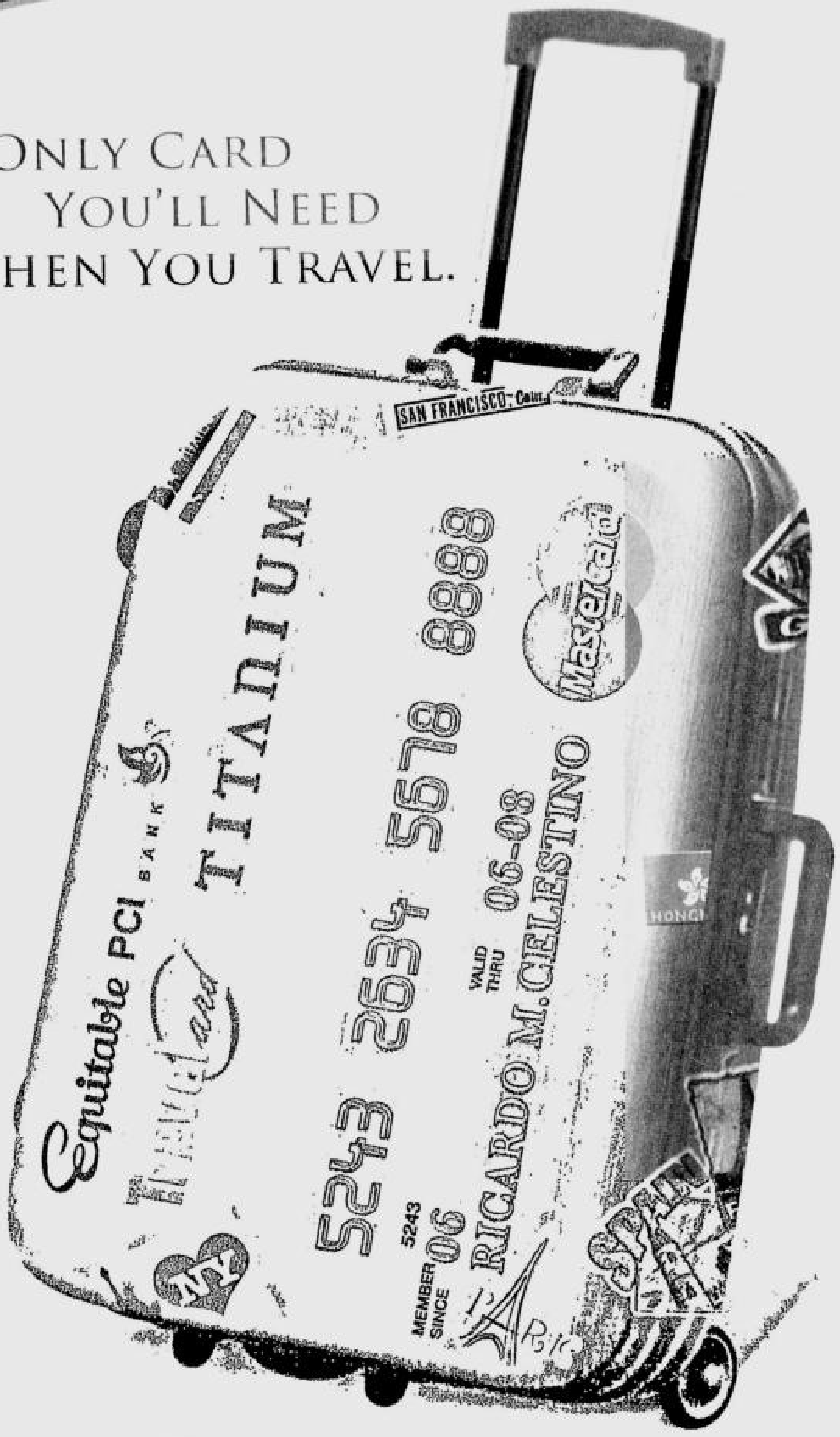
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# BSP tightens security controls for e-banking transactions

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS has tightened the banking system's security controls and risk protection measures for electronic banking transactions.

In a press statement, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the policy-making Monetary Board had approved a new circular to "safeguard customer information, prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, reduce fraud and theft of sensitive customer information and promote legal enforceability of banks' electronic agreements and transactions."

"E-banking has increased the risks of doing business with unauthorized persons and the risks of unauthorized access to customer confidential data that can result in financial loss and reputation damage to the bank," Tetangco said.

"The circular aims to provide a measure of protection to e-banking consumers and promote safe and sound e-banking activities, while preserving the flexibility necessary to accommodate future technological advancement of banks."

The BSP is bracing for tougher regulatory challenges that will arise from electronic banking.

Also, the BSP recognizes the potential for an increase in cross-border e-banking transactions in the coming years.

As the acceptance of e-banking services continues to grow in many countries, customers are seen using the Internet to access banking products that meet their needs, without regard for a bank's country of origin.

# Atlas bent on mining nickel in Palawan

## Firm wants to cash in on high metal prices

**By Christine A. Gaylican**

ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING AND DEVElopment Corp. is bent on starting mineral production at its multibillion-peso Berong nickel project in Palawan, a ranking company official said.

Atlas' application for mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) has been pending with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the past five months, according to sources in the company.

"Potential foreign buyers of the product are inclined to test the nickel, and shipments must be done at the soonest possible time," Atlas Consolidated Mining president and chair Alfredo C. Ramos said.

In a letter dated July 17, Atlas urged DENR Secretary Angelo Reyes to hasten the processing of the company's mining permits for the Berong nickel and Toledo copper projects, explaining that the company faces "serious financial consequences" with each day of delay.

Atlas said in a report that the Berong nickel mining project in Palawan was a "well advanced prospect, with significant drilling and test pit work having already taken place."

"The projects already have the development plans in place and we intend to produce nickel and copper at the earliest possible time [and] catch up with the current high prices of commodities," Ramos told the INQUIRER.

Alakor Corp., a company also owned by Ramos, has been aggressively reviving Atlas as it finalizes a prospectus incorporating the Palawan nickel and Toledo copper mining projects in line with its planned listing on the capital markets of Australia and the United Kingdom.

Alakor owns 60 percent of Atlas.

"It would be an advantage for Atlas to list on the Australian and London stock exchanges because they are both mining oriented and will provide a greater level of share price support compared with the Philippine Stock Exchange," a source at the Bureau of Mines and Geosciences said.

These investments reflect a revival in the Philippine mining industry, as local and overseas companies set up operations to take advantage of the country's large mineral resources as prices of nickel, copper and other metals in the world market continue to rise.

Nickel for three-month delivery fetches more than $8,000 a metric ton on the London Metal Exchange—nearly double the price from the same period last year.

# Clark ecozone launches own wi-fi system

**By Tonette Orejas**
*Inquirer Central Luzon*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC—COMCLARK, the exclusive distributor of the Tropos systems in the Philippines, recently launched from the SM City Clark the first of its wi-fi (wireless fidelity) hotspots in the main district of this 4,500-hectare ecozone.

The signal is beamed from the Tech Access, a business center at the mall, according to Dennis Uy, ComClark president and chief executive officer.

Uy said this was part of the $2-million wireless broadband network being developed in Clark, which was part of the program to develop a cyber corridor in the country. Aside from Clark, the cyber corridor includes the cities of Baguio, Cebu, Davao and Manila.

The project, called WAC or Wireless Anywhere Clark, is being undertaken with the state-owned Clark Development Corp.

CDC president Antonio Ng said President Macapagal-Arroyo was informed of the project last month when she presided over the joint meeting of the Cabinet and regional development council.

Ng said the project would be completed in four phases by June 2007.

The first phase will cover the Clark main gate (where SM City Clark is located) down to the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport. The other phases extend to tourism establishments, all gates and traffic lights, commercial areas and industrial hubs.

Uy said WAC's digital infrastructure would enable investors to conduct mobile commerce and visitors to have easy access to the Internet through their laptops, mobile phones and other wi-fi capable gadgets.

He said the system would help Clark's traffic and security management division monitor activities on the road, in banks, power and water utilities through mobile computers relaying video feed from remote cameras linked to central monitoring stations.

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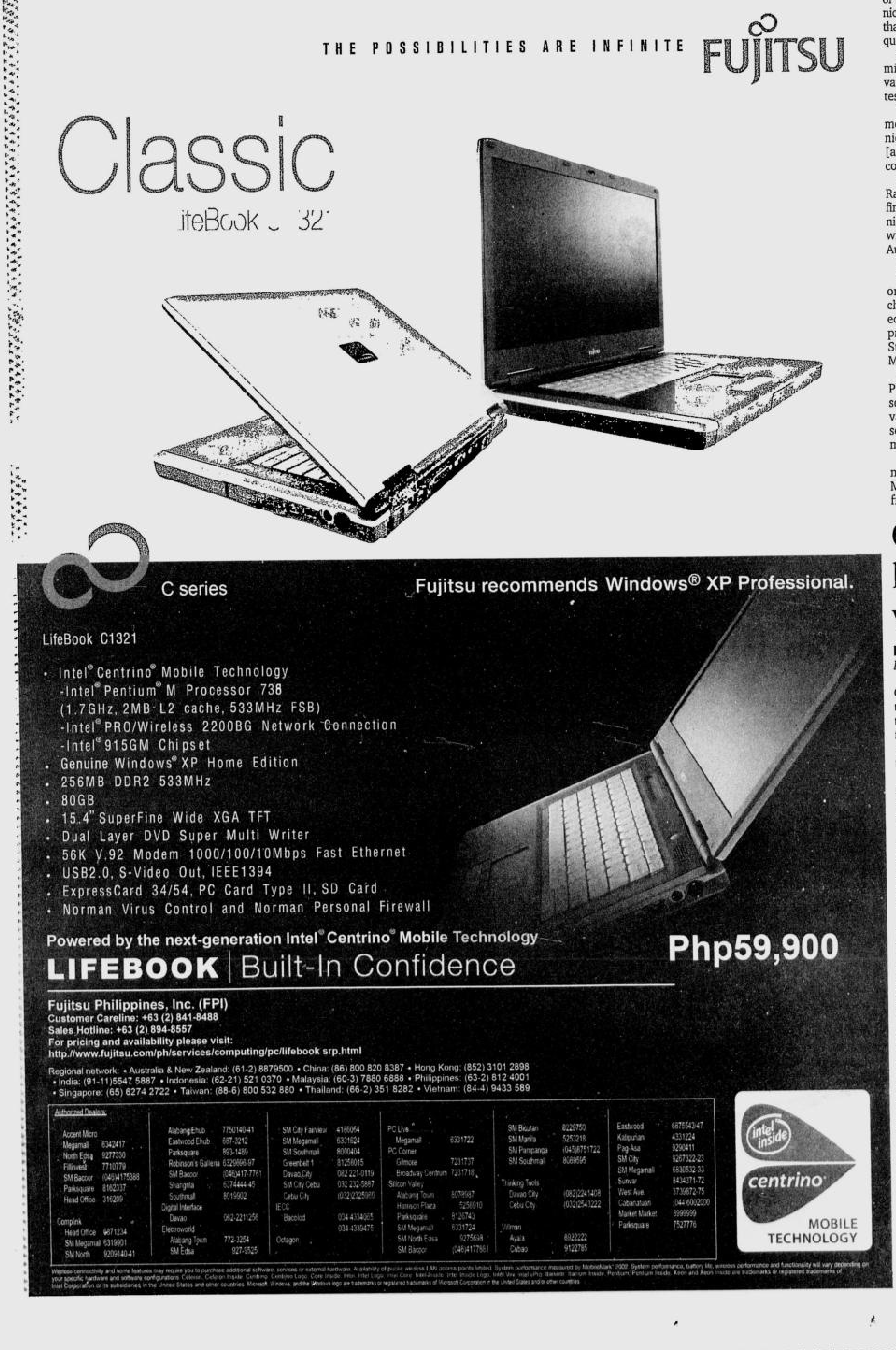
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# GSIS e-card

## QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

*Honesto C. General*

WINSTON GARCIA, GSIS president and general manager, was all aglow when he reported in a recent stakeholders meeting the rousing success of the e-card system that allowed check-less disbursement of billions of pesos worth of benefits to members through the wonders of the Internet.

Instead of getting his salary loan over the counter in the form of a crossed check that has to be deposited into the borrower's bank account (or cashed right away at a big discount by a usurer in the neighborhood), the member draws cash out of the automatic teller machine (ATM) by using his Union Bank e-card.

Great, but I see one hitch. The GSIS uses only one bank now, UnionBank. I have nothing against UnionBank. I am sure it is financially sound, professionally run, and the owners are of the highest integrity. But even the Commission on Audit has some misgiving about this one-bank policy.

The GSIS has a cash flow of P40 billion a year. Why should the GSIS put all its eggs in one basket and be a virtual captive of one bank, even if it were the best bank in the whole world? Never mind the safety factor. But the GSIS can spread the cash flow over several banks and still get excellent service from each bank. And, most important, the service to the members will be much better.

Besides, the members—active and retired—are all over the archipelago. They cannot be served well by UnionBank's branch network. This is especially true in Bicol. For example, in the entire Camarines Sur, the biggest province, UnionBank has a five-man branch in my hometown, Naga City. On pension day, the queue of retirees winds around the block. My friend Badong in Caramoan, 50 kilometers away, takes the early morning bus, lines up at the bank most of the day, and then catches the last bus home. He is in bed by near midnight.

The members in Catanduanes will have to take the ferry to Legazpi City where the nearest UnionBank branch is located.

Of course, a member who takes out a loan or an advance would be willing to do almost anything to get his money. He is still strong enough to go to the far end of the province if need be.

But a retiree is a different person altogether. Every payday for probably 40 years, he contributed part of his salary into the GSIS pension fund. He had no choice; it was the law. Now, in his sunset years, he wants his money back.

The law guarantees him that, after long and faithful service in the government, his contributions, plus the earnings on them, will be returned to him in the form of a monthly pension for the rest of his life. He has every right to expect that the money be delivered at his doorstep.

For most of the retirees, the monthly pension is all the money they have. Also, many are already disabled. The pension is sometimes not even enough for their monthly maintenance medicines.

Winston Garcia should copy the way SSS CEO Corazon de la Paz treats retirees. The SSS retiree opens a saving account at the bank of his choice. Through the Internet, the SSS sends the pension to the bank every month. To withdraw his pension in cash, the retiree fills out a withdrawal slip and presents it with his passbook. No checks, no e-cards.

I draw my pension from the bank at the ground floor of the building where my office is. I sometimes withdraw the pension without the passbook because the tellers know me. And, best of all, doing business with a good-looking lady teller is much more enjoyable than grappling with a machine.

When planning how to take care of the GSIS retirees, Winston Garcia, and the bright boys and girls around him, should remember one inescapable fact: *Tatanda rin kayo.*

# Local demand for oil seen down by 5% this year

**By Abigail L. Ho**

LOCAL OIL DEMAND IS EXPECTED TO shrink by at least 5 percent this year, following an 8-percent contraction in the first half.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the estimate was deemed "very conservative," considering the continued rise in oil prices.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the price of the regional benchmark Dubai crude now hovered close to its all-time high of $72.29 a barrel posted last month.

As of Aug. 10, Dubai crude averaged $70.83 a barrel as against the July average of $69.17 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products hit an average of $87.72 a barrel in the first 10 days of the month from $85.50 a barrel in July.

MOPS-based diesel rose to an average of $88.40 a barrel from Aug. 1 to 10, from last month's $87.37 a barrel.

Lotilla said local oil demand was expected to further shrink this year as people become more focused on conservation, in light of the unabated rise in the prices of petroleum products.

Petroleum products consumption last year dropped 7.9 percent to 109 million barrels a day from 118.4 million barrels a day in 2004.

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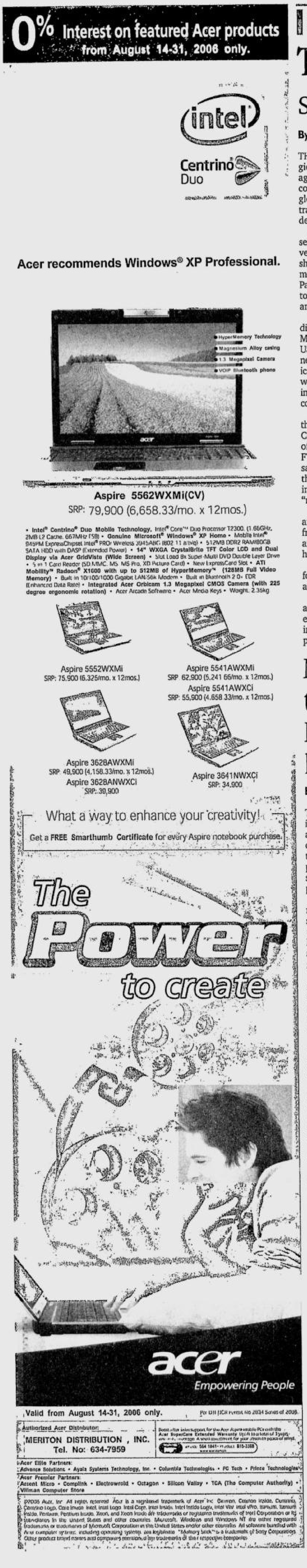

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# Too many trade pacts drive up costs

## Study: Apec members need to harmonize provisions

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE PROLIFERATION OF REgional and bilateral free trade agreements in the Asia-Pacific, coupled with the failure of global trade talks, is driving up transaction costs for business despite the decrease in tariffs.

A study being done by a research center based in the University of Southern California shows that there is a need for member economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation to harmonize trade provisions amid the clutter of FTAs.

Peter R. Giulioni Jr., executive director of the Fred V[illegible]ennan MBA Career Source Cen[illegible] at the USC's Marshall School [illegible] Business, on Saturday said [illegible] significant divergence among the wide array of FTAs could be making business operations more complex, while increasing costs.

Giulioni was presenting to the Apec Business Advisory Council (Abac) the first phase of a comparative analysis of FTAs in the region, which he said would produce a catalog that business could use as a tool in "navigating" the so-named "noodle bowl" of trade pacts.

Abac, government officials and up to three business leaders from each Apec member-nation are represented in a meeting held in Cebu over the weekend.

Abac marked its third meeting for the year, in time for the 10th anniversary of its establishment.

The academic explained that among the 21 Apec member economies, there were 21 existing FTAs and at least 17 more pending.

"(The catalog is also hoped to) help trade negotiators and researchers who are engaged in developing new FTAs," Giulioni said.

The Apec count among its members Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, United States and Vietnam.

The Philippines is engaged in developing the Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) FTA, a comprehensive economic pact, with China, and a trade in goods pact with South Korea.

The country is also involved in ongoing talks to conclude possible Asean pacts with India, the European Union and Australia.

Other findings of the USC study showed that at least 70 percent of FTAs among Apec members contained provisions that were consistent with, or even better than, the rules of the World Trade Organization.

The provisions include lower tariff commitments across the board.

Also, non-tariff provisions in these FTAs meet, or go beyond, WTO standards.

But Giulioni said such efforts to improve on WTO requirements have led to "significant divergence ... which may be increasing complexity and imposing substantial transaction costs on businesses."

He said the most important example was the wide array of rules of origin (ROO) provisions that spell out which merchandise are considered made in the FTA parties and are thus covered under tariff reduction agreements.

Giulioni said efforts to remedy the negative effects of FTAs should focus on creating a harmonized system of trade, especially one that addresses the many different ROOs.

Also in the same forum, Victor Fung, chair of the Hong Kong-based Li & Fung Group, said the multilateral approach to trade, such as that espoused in the WTO, was the only way to ensure continued health among firms and to promote global prosperity.

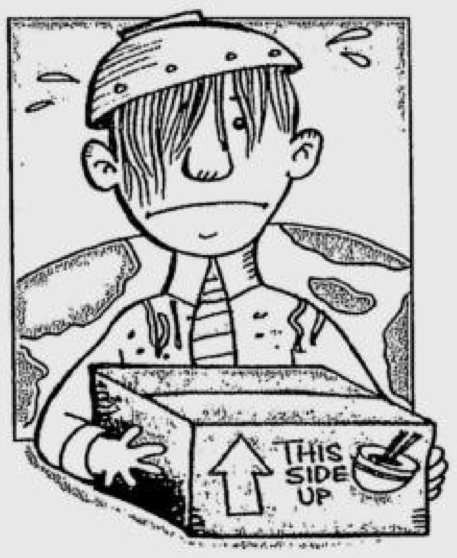
Li & Fung operates in about 40 economies and is focused on supply chain management, as well as export trading, retailing and distribution.

Fung said that because future trade lies with internationally dispersed manufacturing processes and increasing complex trade flows, multilateralism would matter even more.

He said bilateral agreements have "very troublesome consequences" because they distort the flows, throws up barriers, creates fiction, reduces flexibility, raises prices and hinders the ability of companies to get new countries involved in the global production system.

"This is because, with ROOs, FTA parties are keen to limit the geographic scope of where the products originate," Fung said.

He said that, in contrast, firms can pick out the best location for, and the best contractors in, a certain stage of production, which could be anywhere in the world, involving as many suppliers as possible.



# In Asia, bowls full of pacts spoil trade

"BEWARE OF SPAGHETTI AND NOOdles, they can make a mess of global trade as well as your shirt," according to a trade economist based in New York's Columbia University.

Jagdish Bhagwati, the noted economist, was warning about the dangers of bilateral and regional trade agreements.

Bhagwati, who addressed this year's third meeting of the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Business Advisory Council in Cebu City, is said to have coined the phrase "spaghetti bowl" effect, which refers to the entanglements resulting from limited-membership trade pacts.

The professor said he first used the term 10 years ago when he described how bilateral and regional pacts was shredding the global multilateral trade regime the was being developed through the World Trade Organization.

"Another reason is that my shirt gets messed up whenever I eat spaghetti," Bhagwati said.

Trade experts picked up Bhagwati's phrase and coined the "noodle bowl" effect, referring to what is happening in the Asian trade arena.

Bhagwati also bashed the doublespeak contained in the jargon of international trade.

"The bilateral and regional pacts are called 'free' trade agreements when in fact they are not free," he said. "These are actually 'preferential' TAs because you favor the members and shut out those outside (the pact)."

He said FTAs were actually diverting trade from low cost suppliers to high cost suppliers that are parties to the agreements.

Also, Bhagwati said FTAs were damaging world trade so much that the universally applied most favored nation treatment has now become "least" favored nation because of lower tariff commitments in FTAs.

Bhagwati said MFN tariffs are going down anyway, but FTA provisions have included such "rubbish" as aggressive reduction of tariffs to the detriment of FTA participants, including developing countries.

"When dealing in FTAs, beware of the big dogs like the United States who will only offer something when they could get something substantial in return," he said.

*Ronnel W. Domingo*

# Meralco urged to work with Napocor to lower rates

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS URGing the state-run National Power Corp. and the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. to come up with an agreement similar to their Customer Choice Program to give power users who cannot avail of that scheme a chance to also reduce their power expenses.

"We hope Napocor and Meralco can now think of other variations, pricing schemes that go beyond Napocor's TOU (time-of-use) rates," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla told reporters after the signing of the Customer Choice Program agreement last Friday.

Under the Customer Choice Program, Meralco customers with an average monthly demand of at least 1 megawatt (MW) can avail themselves of either Napocor's TOU rates or Meralco's blended generation rate.

Napocor president Cyril del Callar said the scheme would give big power users, particularly the industrial customers, a chance to reduce their electricity expenses.

The TOU scheme provides Napocor customers with flexible hourly rates that are lowest during off-peak hours, or between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and highest during peak hours, or from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Sundays and holidays are also considered off-peak times.

Rates are also lower during the wet season, or from July to December, as electricity demand usually falls during this time due to the colder weather. Hydroelectric plants are also able to produce more power during these months.

Industrial users can opt to shift their loads to off-peak hours to take advantage of lower rates.

However, Lotilla said that not all big power users could take advantage of the TOU rates.

"Those with 24/7 operations can benefit from the TOU rates by shifting their load to off-peak hours," Lotilla said. "But those with [continuous] peak demands, like shopping malls, will still have to pay higher rates."

"The challenge now is to come up with different rate schedules to benefit other big customers."

According to pre-wholesale electricity spot market (Wesm) estimates, entities that will participate in the Customer Choice Program can save an average of 44 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

With the Wesm now in place, the overall reduction in rates will be slightly lower.

"But there will still be savings, so the program will still reduce power cost," Lotilla said. "The appreciation of the peso has adversely affected the export industry, so we have to find ways to somehow offset that effect. And reducing electricity rates is one of them."

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**DRIVING OFF MOSQUITOS THE OLD FASHIONED AWAY:** Colorful mosquito coil clay holders are up for sale in several dengue-infested towns around Vigan. Up north in the Ilocos region, the use of mosquito coils has never gone out of style.

# DOF tells exporters to back up claims

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE COUNTRY'S ELECTRONICS EXPORTERS ARE turning to the Department of Finance for help to counter the move in the Senate to scrap the automatic VAT exemption enjoyed by export-oriented firms.

The Semiconductor and Electronics industries in the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) said that the country's business climate would be seen as hostile to investors if the exporters' automatic exemption from the value-added tax were to be removed.

"It will have an adverse impact on current operations and future expansion plans of the companies," said Ernie Santiago, executive director of Seipi.

Electronics exporters are considered the country's biggest dollar contributors, accounting for about 60 percent of total exports.

Santiago said Seipi has already submitted a position paper to the Senate committee on ways and means, which is currently drafting a bill that will include a provision lifting the automatic VAT exemption of exporters.

An official from the DOF said Seipi wanted the government agency to support the exporters' position on the issue to strengthen the industry's lobby against the Senate proposal.

A statement of support coming from the DOF saying that the lifting of the automatic VAT exemption would have a net negative effect could sway the Senate committee to drop the proposal, the source said.

But the finance official said the DOF first wanted Seipi to submit a paper that would substantiate claims that the proposed lifting of the automatic VAT exemption would result in huge capital costs and create too much burden on exporters.

"The Senate's proposal, which could help plug revenue losses, is actually in favor of the government. So if [Seipi] wants our support, they should give us figures," the finance official said.

Under the committee on ways and means' proposal, export-oriented firms that import raw materials will first have to pay the VAT on the imported goods. Once revenue authorities prove that the goods they imported were indeed used for the production of export goods, then the firms could refund in full the VAT payments.

Currently, exporters are automatically exempted from paying VAT on imports as an incentive for their contributions to the economy.

The proposed lifting of their automatic VAT exemption, however, was pushed amid suspicion that many firms falsely claim to be exporters to enjoy the incentive.

The proposal is embodied in the fiscal incentives rationalization bill drafted by the committee on ways and means, which is headed by Sen. Ralph Recto.

The fiscal incentives rationalization bill aims to eliminate what the government considers redundant incentives to trim down the estimated P300 billion in lost potential revenues a year. Incentives are considered "redundant" if the beneficiary firm would have invested in the country anyway even without the said perks.

The finance official said exporters were against the proposed lifting of automatic VAT exemption because it will require them to raise a huge amount of capital just to pay VAT, from which they are essentially exempted.

Estimates said Intel alone will have to raise $300 million in additional capital should the proposal be implemented.

"Exporters said many would have to close down or transfer to another country if this is implemented," the finance official said. "But of course, what we need are facts that can support their claim."

# Batangas port tax take hits ₱22B

## Collection as of July up 77% from last year, over target by 35%

**By Marlon Ramos**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

BATANGAS CITY—THE PORT OF BATANGAS has collected P22.5 billion in taxes and duties in the first seven months of the year.

POB district collector Grace Caringal said the collection as of July exceeded last year's take of P9.9 billion by 77 percent, and went over the target for the period by P5.6 billion or 35 percent.

Caringal attributed the increase in cash collection to the new measures implemented by Bureau of Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales to curb smuggling and corruption.

"We were fortunate that we have hardworking personnel here in the Port of Batangas... This also shows that we have eradicated smuggling in this port," Caringal said in a news briefing here.

The POB is the third best-performing port in the country, next to the Manila International Container Terminal and Port of Manila.

She said the increase in collection was also due to the implementation of the 12 percent expanded value added tax on petroleum products and other manufactured items, and the increase in demand for crude oil and cars.

Caringal said on the average, 85 percent of all taxable items entering the POB were crude oil. The remaining 15 percent of their collection come from cars and imported grains like wheat, rice and corn.

Last month, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. was the top taxpayer, paying P1.37 billion in duties on its imported crude oil and gas chemicals.

Caltex Philippines Inc. was the second highest tax payer, contributing P1.24 billion in taxes.

Other top taxpayers were Toyota Motor Philippines with P212 million; Hyundai Philippines, which paid P91.8 million in duties and obligations and Philippine Air Lines, which paid a P62.6-million tax on its imported fuels.

In July alone, the POB collected P1.19 billion, 45 percent more than the target of P2.6 billion.

She said the increased activities at the POB have also provided additional employment to more than 1, 800 residents manning the warehouses around the port.

She said they have also endorsed to the importers to prioritize trucking companies whose main offices are in Batangas City.

# Eastern Visayas' fish production up in Q2

**By Vicente S. Labro**
*Inquirer Visayas*

TACLOBAN CITY—FISH PRODUCTION IN Eastern Visayas increased by 13.7 percent in the second quarter this year compared to last year.

The National Statistical Coordination Board regional office here recently reported that the region produced 52,112 metric tons of fish from April to June, up 22.84 percent from the previous quarter.

Ernesto Hilvano, acting regional director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Eastern Visayas, attributed the growth of the fisheries sector here to the 200 sea cages installed in 13 mariculture parks and zones in the region.

He said the region was also endowed with marine resources—rich seas, including Carigara Bay in Leyte, the Sogod Bay in Southern Leyte, the Maqueda Bay in Samar, and the Samar Sea.

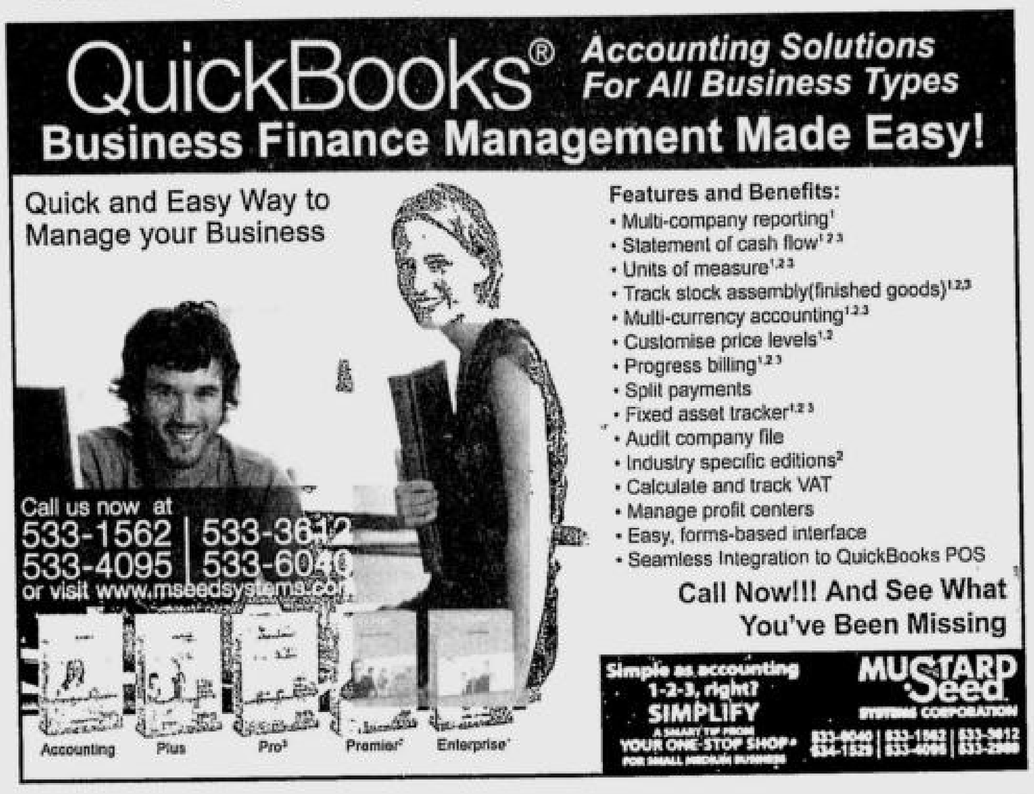
Early this year, he said the BFAR entered into a memorandum of agreement with an international fishing corporation and the local government of Quinapondan, Eastern Samar on the implementation of the Grouper (Lapulapu) Commercial Farming Pilot Project at the mariculture park in Quinapondan town.

The project, which is now operational, involves the culture of different species of lapulapu (grouper) in sea cages, development of brood stocks, formulation of fish feeds, and the development of facilities for the hatchery and live grouper transport.

Hilvano expressed optimism that the growth of the fishing industry in the region would continue especially now that BFAR's Bangus Central Hatchery in Guiuan, Eastern Samar has started commercial operations.

The BFAR hatchery, which was inaugurated just last June, could now supply the bangus fry requirement of the entire region.

Hilvano disclosed that in a recent meeting with fishpond operators in Eastern Visayas, he encouraged them to develop ponds for fingerling production so they could also supply the need for bangus fingerlings in the region.



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# Baguio to ban sale of exotic birds

BAGUIO CITY—THE council here has drafted an avian flu control ordinance seeking to regulate the sale of exotic birds in the city.

Sponsored by Councilor Erdolfo Balajadia, the proposed ordinance makes it unlawful to possess or own unregistered exotic birds.

The measure also prohibits the sale of any exotic species of poultry wildlife.

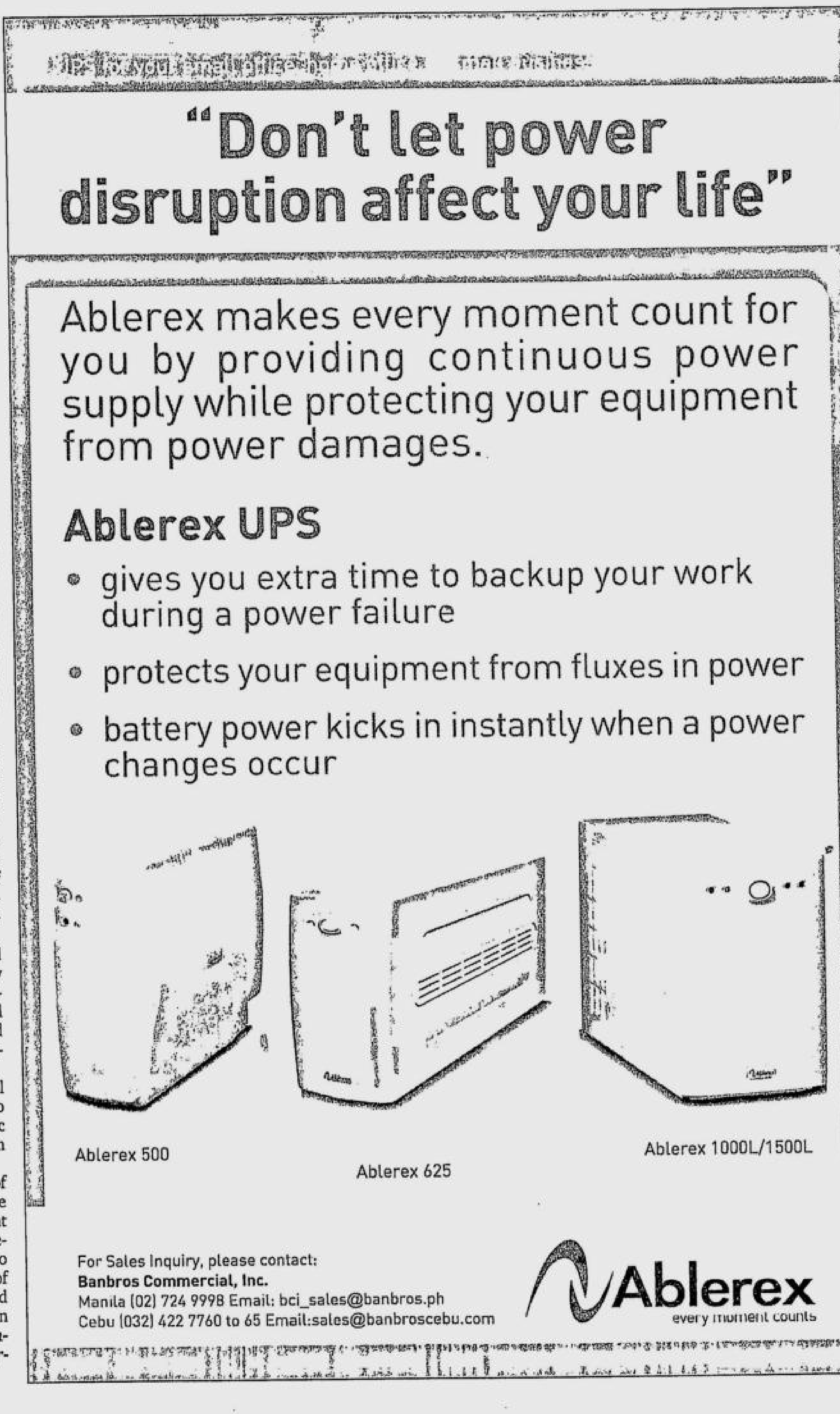
Baguio is about five hours away from Kapangan, Benguet and seven hours from Sagada, Mt. Province, where some residents trap migratory birds.

The proposed ordinance likewise calls for the creation of a task force that will be responsible for emergency response in case of an avian flu outbreak or evidence of contact between infected birds and domestic fowl.

The ordinance will also require the city government to conduct a census of all existing poultry and their holding facilities in the city.

The task force will be empowered to shut down public markets once avian flu is detected.

It can bar the sale of live chickens in the market while a threat prevails, and can require authorities to separate the pens of chickens, ducks and hogs as a precaution against the flu. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



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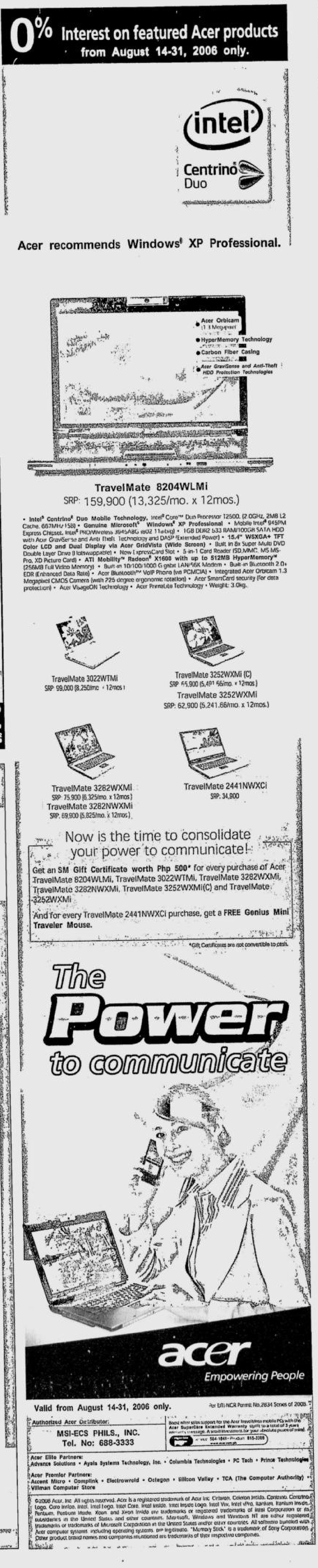

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# 2nd edition Isuzu Crosswind XT Limited introduced

A SPECIAL VARIANT OF THE CROSSwind multipurpose vehicle has been so successful since its launch earlier this year that Isuzu Philippines Corp is releasing a newer version. The latest to roll off Isuzu's assembly line of affordable vehicles that offer unparalleled value for money is the Crosswind XT Limited II, an improved version of the first edition in terms of new features and new body colors.

New features in the Crosswind XT Limited II include parking sensors at the back as well as two new exclusive body colors of Starry Black and Dune Gray. The new body colors were previously associated with higher-end vehicles, while the equally upmarket back-up sensors give the Crosswind XT Limited II owner full confidence when parking backwards.

This new Crosswind model still retains the new features introduced on the Crosswind XT Limited I variant, including map lamps, single in-dash DVD/VCD/CD player, and a pair of seven-inch headrest-mounted LCD monitors for the second-row passengers.

Also, like the first Crosswind XT Limited, the new edition is powered by Isuzu's proven and fuel-efficient 2.5-liter 4JA1 diesel engine. It also rides on independent double- wishbone suspension and torsion bar springs in front, and on semi-elliptical leaf-spring Flex Ride suspension at the rear.

The Crosswind XT Limited II, available with manual transmission only, is competitively priced at P845,000---proving once again that nobody is better than Isuzu when it comes to creating diesel vehicles that give the best bang for the buck.

Visit your nearest Isuzu dealership now! In Metro Manila, Isuzu dealerships can be found in Edsa Balintawak, Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth, Pasig, Manila, Makati and Alabang. In the provinces, Isuzu dealerships are located in Isabela, Pangasinan, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, San Pablo, Bacolod, Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

**SEND-OFF FOR LANCE TO WORLD ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS**

SGV chair and managing partner David L. Balangue recently hosted a cocktail reception in honor of all the winners and finalists of the Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines. The affair was also a send-off for Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines 2005 Lance Y. Gokongwei, president and CEO of Cebu Air Inc, who represented the country in the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2006 Awards in Monte Carlo, Monaco June 10. Shown are (from left) Sanjiv Vohra, country officer of Citigroup Corporate and Investment Bank, Tony Tan Caktiong, president and CEO of Jollibee Foods Corp, Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines 2003 and World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2004, Gokongwei, Edgar Chua, country chair of Shell companies in the Philippines, and Balangue.

# *Goodwill's innovative preschool reading series*

GOODWILL BOOKSTORE, through its publishing department, recently released an innovative and comprehensive reading readiness program that will enable every child to succeed in all years of preschool reading. This learning series is the brainchild of preschool owner and expert reading teacher, Orvelita C. Tugade, who in her 50 years of teaching, had developed a wide variety of teaching materials geared towards raising the literacy level and thinking skills of Filipino children.

The series is composed of seven books that effectively guide students from nursery to preparatory through the essential steps to becoming successful readers. The first book, "Getting Ready to Read", aims to develop the child's basic reading skills such as following directions, understanding space and position concepts, classifying and organizing ideas, making inferences and sequencing. The next two titles, "Fun Alphabet Letters and Their Sounds" and "Fun with Colors and Shapes", focus on the development of the child's visual and auditory skills as well as his motor coordination and finger dexterity while familiarizing him with the alphabet. The last four titles provide careful sequencing of reading skills development so that each new skill builds upon prior skill learning for emergent to independent readers. "The Starting Reader" helps the child build a basic sight vocabulary of about 60 words. "The Growing Reader" introduces the child to an expanded vocabulary to include phrases, sentences and story units. "The Thinking Reader" focuses on the enrichment of the child's thinking and comprehension skills through age-appropriate short stories and poems. The last book in the series, "The Super Reader", exposes the child to more reading resources that will enrich his reading vocabulary and improve comprehension skills for greater learning.

An ideal centerpiece for any preschool reading program, this learning series is now available at Goodwill Bookstore branches nationwide. For inquiries, call Goodwill publishing department at 413-9787.

# RP's biggest integrated int'l agribiz expo set

AQUALINK IS JOINING AGRILINK AND Foodlink to form the country's biggest integrated international trade show on agribusiness, food and aquaculture.

This was announced by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD), a non-government organization serving those three major industries.

FRLD president Antonio V. Roces said Aqualink would bring into Agrilink and Foodlink all the sectors of the aquaculture industry to highlight its new technologies, products, services, and business potentials in both local and global markets.

"Offering vast business opportunities in aquaculture and ornamental fish production and exports, Aqualink will gather all of the industry's players and suppliers to provide networking facilities for entrepreneurs and generate sales, marketing tie-up, and joint ventures in research and development and other transactions," Roces said.

"Being the premier aquaculture trade show, Aqualink will certainly expand the coverage of Agrilink and Foodlink, which are already the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international event on agribusiness and food," Roces added.

Aqualink will showcase the country's advances in mariculture and aquaculture development comprising ornamental and food fishes and other aquatic resources, and all allied sectors that make up the industry's supply chain.

These include suppliers of aquatic feeds, breeding and spawning technologies, fish farm equipment and supplies, and industrial users of marine products, among others.

Citing the archipelago's potential and natural capacity for export of ornamental and food fishes, Roces said the export market had always been there just waiting to be tapped.

Thus far, the Philippines has gained advances in mariculture development, production of ornamental fishes, spawning of the expensive maliputo, propagation of prawns in marine pens, and other scientific breakthroughs, all capable of making such aquatic products sufficiently available for export and domestic consumption.

These and many other new technologies, products and services will be showcased at Aqualink, which will be staged simultaneously with Agrilink and Foodlink at the World Trade Center from Oct. 5 to 7.

Agrilink is now on its 13th year, Foodlink on its seventh, and Aqualink on its second.

"These diverse yet interdependent exhibitions, the first of its kind in the Philippines, have been a venue for showcasing the latest and innovative technologies of their respective industries. Together, Agrilink, Foodlink and Aqualink bring the best of international trade exhibits as the organizers focus on genetics, which impacts across all sectors of the agribusiness industry," Roces said.

Inquiries and reservations can be made with FRLD at 838-4549, 838-4852; fax 838-4573, or e-mail frld@pldtdsl.net.

Organized by FRLD, all three events are supported by the Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural and Fishery Council, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and 20 major trade associations in the country.

# Intelligent water purification system at home

THERE'S NO ARGUING THE fact that clean water is absolutely essential for healthy living. Water is a life giving force, but, it can also be life threatening. In this day and age, chances of water contamination are dangerously high. 80 percent of diseases are waterborne, such as diarrhea, typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera, paratyphoid fever, viral hepatitis, infantile diarrhea and polio.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), waterborne diseases such as cholera and schistosomiasis kill at least 3.4 million people every year, making them collectively more lethal than AIDS.

Forbes Water Purifier is the only water purification system that uses e-boiling+ technology. The process of e-boiling+ is part of a comprehensive 3-stage purification procedure.

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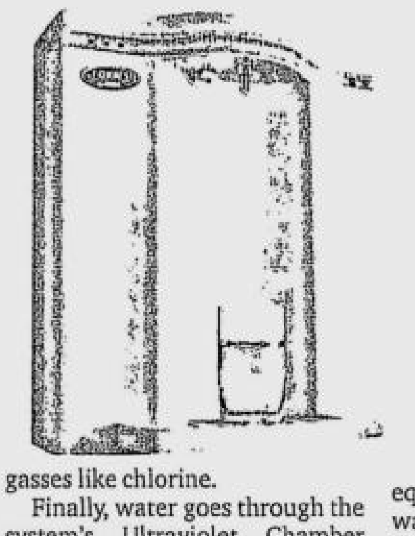

Finally, water goes through the system's Ultraviolet Chamber wherein ultraviolet rays e-boil the water. Its ultraviolet germicidal dosage destroys all known waterborne disease-causing micro-organisms.

Its other advance features include an electronic monitoring system. This "electronic eye" monitors the purification process and stops the flow of water immediately, if the level of purification is inadequate. The Decalcifier uses electronic impulses produced to prevent scaling of the quartz tube, thereby ensuring that precious metals and nutrients are retained in the water. The Intelligence Quotient Alert system feature alerts you in advance, when any of the three stages need to be replaced.

In addition, its built-in flush system conveniently flushes out stagnant water when the unit has not been used for several days. Plus, you get a flow rate of two liters per minute. With this kind of flow rate, it's the equivalent of having your own water station at home. Forbes Water Purifier lets you drink water with its natural minerals preserved in it, as against non-mineralized water commonly sold in water stations nationwide. Forbes Water Purifier has been tried and tested by over 100 laboratories worldwide and trusted by over 3 million families across the world. For more information or a free non-obligatory demo on this product, call 747-3609 or e-mail jtongco@europ2pdirect.com

**MMPC AWARDS 50,000TH ADVENTURE**

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp (MMPC) has just concluded the 50,000th unit milestone celebration for the Adventure. MMPC directors Kengo Takase, president and CEO and Yoshiaki Ichimura, SEVP marketing, handed over the keys to the 50,000th Adventure unit to Josephine O. Cunanan July 7. Cunanan, who is a resident of Plaridel, Bulacan, is the luckiest to be drawn among the thousands of entries from all Mitsubishi Adventure owners who have registered for the promo. Five other lucky Adventure owners got their entries picked to win P50,000 each. And these were Ernesto Samano of Las Pinas, Artemio Carandang of Las Pinas, Manuelito Cura of Taguig, Andales Mercado of Cebu City, and Erlinda Liongson of Navotas. 'We would like to thank those who have participated in our Adventure 50,000th Milestone Celebration. Much credit goes to our customers who trusted the Mitsubishi Adventure which eventually led to this remarkable achievement by MMPC." expressed Ichimura. Shown are (from left): Yoshiaki Ichimura, SEVP marketing of MMPC, Josephine Cunanan, Soliman Cunanan, and Kengo Takase, president and CEO of MMPC.

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PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGING OSMEÑA BLVD. NORTH RECLAMATION AREA,
CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 232-3401 to 04, FAX NO. (032) 232-1990
Email: pdovisayas@ppavis.com • Website: www.ppavis.com

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas**, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Engineering Project (BAC-EP), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A. Name of Contract : Proposed Extension of RC Pier and Construction of RoRo Ramp
Location : Brgy. Balite, Kawayan, Biliran Province
Required Experience : 1.0 Construction of RC Pier & RoRo Ramp
RC Pier & RoRo Ramp 378.00 SQ.M
Driving of RC Piles 1,775.00 LN.M
(at least 50% of the required quantity)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P13,954,301.52
Source of Funds : PPA Corporate Funds
Contract Duration : 100 CD
PCAB Registration : Medium "A" for Ports, Harbor & Offshore Engineering

Required Equipments

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | 1 unit | Crane Barge (DWT-450T) | - Owned/Leased |
| 2.0 | 1 unit | Truckmounted Crane (35T) | - Owned |
| 3.0 | 1 unit | Diesel Hammer (3.5T) | - Owned |
| 4.0 | 1 unit | Drop Hammer (2T) | - Owned |
| 5.0 | 2 units | One Bagger Concrete Mixer | - Owned |
| 6.0 | 2 units | Concrete Vibrator | - Owned |
| 7.0 | 1 unit | Welding Machine | - Owned |
| 8.0 | 1 unit | Bar Bender | - Owned |
| 9.0 | 1 unit | Bar Cutter | - Owned |
| 10.0 | 1 unit | Boom Truck (5t) | - Owned |

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license and registration particulars applicable to the type and cost of the contract to be bid; have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract; must have completed *50% for Major Items of Work* (indicated above) on contract/projects with similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid within the past *Five (5) years* immediately preceding the publication of this invitation and with Single Largest Project (SLP) value of at least *50% of the approved budget for the contract to be bid*, and meet the other eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Statement. Applications for eligibility, as well as the preliminary examination of bids, will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" criteria. The BAC will conduct post qualification of the lowest calculated bid. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, a contract will be awarded only to the lowest calculated and responsive bidder.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1.0 Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility | Until August 25, 2006 |
| 2.0 Issuance of Eligibility Forms | Until August 25, 2006 |
| 3.0 Receipt of Eligibility Requirements | September 4, 2006 |

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, photocopy of PCAB License and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,120.00 (inclusive of 12% VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,360.00 (inclusive of VAT) to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) JAMES J. GANTALAO
BAC Chairman

(PDI–August 5 & 14, 2006)

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TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

***Supply and Delivery of In-Circuit and Board Test/Electronics Diagnostic Workstation***

***[Reference No.: PB060213-EL0017(PB2)]***

1 The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)*, through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 5,830,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of In-Circuit and Board Test/Electronics Diagnostic Workstation**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

2 The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Electronics Diagnostic Workstation*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within ninety (90) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting August 11, 2006 to September 8, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at same address below

6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 11, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount.

| Form of Security | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1 Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC) | Php 58,300.00 |
| 2 Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC) | Php 87,450.00 |
| 3 Surety bond (2.5% of ABC) | Php 145,750.00 |
| 4 Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC) | Php 5,830,000.00 |

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7 Bid opening shall be on September 11, 2006 / 2:00 p.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below

8 The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

***National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region***
***Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman***
***MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.***
***Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road***
***Diliman, Quezon City***
***Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432***
***Website: www.transco.ph***

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August. 14, 2006)

**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No 893-1320

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

| PR Number | No. of Line Items | Description | Approved Budget |
|---|---|---|---|
| GT 617250 | 2 | 2006 Male Pants Uniform | PHP 4,986,000.00 |

Eligibility forms and bidding documents may be secured from the PNOC-EDC Materials Management Group c/o Luchie G. Reducto starting on **August 14, 2006 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Four Hundred Pesos (PHP 400.00)** per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference will be held on **September 04, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Procurement Conference Room, PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Bgy. Tongonan, Ormoc City, Leyte.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be dropped inside the public bidding bid box (with logbook provided) located at the Procurement Section Office, Admin. Services Department, PNOC-EDC, Admin Complex, Leyte Geothermal Production Field, Tongonan, Leyte not later than **9:30 a.m.** (Procurement Conference Room wall clock time) of **September 19, 2006** and shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter. Late submission of bids or bids still hand-carried by bidders beyond the specified due date and time shall not be entertained.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

**Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee**

(PDI–August 14 & 21, 2006)

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**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tel No 893-1320, Local 5291

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

| Four (4) pcs Titration System with Chem Station | Approved Budget |
|---|---|
| FGM 60312 | PHP4,462,800.00 |
| Various Drilling Equipment Spares | Approved Budget |
| FDM 63302 | PHP1,602,900.00 |
| FDM 63303 | PHP 593,400.00 |
| FDM 63304 | PHP 207,600.00 (Item 1) |
| | PHP 185,200.00 (Item 2) |
| FDM 63305 | PHP 717,500.00 (Item 1) |
| | PHP 240,100.00 (Item 2) |
| FDM 63306 | PHP 204,000.00 |
| FDM 63308 | PHP 1,633,500.00 |
| FDM 63309 | PHP 2,628,700.00 |
| FDM 63310 | PHP 2,394,400.00 |
| FDM 63311 | PHP 1,713,000.00 |

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Harold T. Fontillas** for the requirement of Drilling Equipment Spares, and **Anthony E. Ciriaco** for the requirement of Titration System with Chem Station, starting August 14, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference will be held on **August 24, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time) of September 7, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

**Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I**

(PDI–August 14 & 21, 2006)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FIRST JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 38
LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN

**Land Reg. Case No. N-4019** **LRA Record No. N-77047**

## NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region I-DENR, Quezon Ave., San Fernando City, La Union; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Director, Bureau of Mines, Pedro Gil St., Malate; the Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, P.O. Box 623, both in Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Prosecutor, the General Services Officer, the Provincial Engineer, Lingayen, Pangasinan; the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, 1st Pangasinan Highway Engineering District, Alaminos City, the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, Alaminos City; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Sual, Pangasinan; Emiliano Bosante, Poblacion, Sual, Pangasinan; Baquican Bay, c/o DENR, CENRO, Alaminos City; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by **NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION**, represented by Rainier B. Butalid, NPC Office Bldg. Complex, cor. Quezon Ave. and Agham Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City thru Atty. Melchor P. Ridulme, NPC cor. Quezon Ave. and Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land.

A parcel of land (Lot 2364, Cad. 588-D, Sual Cadastre, Ap-015542-003415, LRC Rec. No. ), situated at Brgy. Pangascasan, Municipality of Sual, Province of Pangasinan, Island of Luzon, Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 2365, Psu 1-003541 (ACC.) Fausto Clemente; on the SW., along lines 2-3-4-5 by Lot 2363, Ap-015542-003412, Emiliano Bosante and Salvage Zone (50.00 m. wide); on the NE., along line 5-1 by Baquican Bay. Beginning at a point marked "1" of lot 2364 on plan, being N. 04 deg. 07'E., 6760.04 m. from BLLM No. 1-A, Cad. 588-D, Sual Cadastre;

| | |
|---|---|
| thence S. 7 deg. 24'E., | 119.77 m. to point 2; |
| thence N. 30 deg. 50'W., | 147.56 m. to point 3; |
| thence N. 23 deg. 29'W., | 17.36 m. to point 4; |
| thence N. 20 deg. 58'W., | 117.84 m. to point 5; |
| thence S. 31 deg. 49'E., | 323.76 m. to the point of |

beginning; containing an area of **ELEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO (11,562) SQUARE METERS,** more or less. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground as PS. cyl. conc. mons. 15x40 cms. Bearings grid, date of original survey, March 13, 1979 date prepared on September 7, 1994 executed by Engr. Elpidio B. Boado and was approved on November 22, 1994.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at the **Regional Trial Court, Branch 38, Lingayen, Pangasinan, Philippines, on the 17th day of October, 2006 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning**, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear in court at same time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the **HON. TEODORO C. FERNANDEZ**, Judge of said Court, on the 16th day of May, 2006.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 3rd day of July, 2006.

ATTEST:

**BENEDICTO B. ULEP**
Administrator
Land Registration Authority

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
(Sgd.) **GLORIETA P. LACAMBRA**
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

By: (Sgd.) **SALVADOR L. ORIEL**
Chief Docket Division

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## An evening of wind and piano by USTCMAA

THE UST CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (USTCMAA) IN COOPERATION with Philamlife Insurance presents "An Evening of Wind and Piano Music" on Thursday, Aug. 25 at 7:30 P.M. at the Philamlife Theater. Featured artists are outstanding alumni of the U.S.T. Conservatory of Music: Ariel Sta. Ana (clarinet), Adolfo Mendoza (bassoon) and Mary Anne Espina (piano). Proceeds of this concert will be for the scholarship fund of the USTCMAA.

Sta. Ana and Mendoza both finished their Bachelor of Music degrees at the UST Conservatory of Music and their Master of Music degrees at the Elizabeth University of Music in Hiroshima Japan. Both are also faculty members of the USTCM and regular members of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO). Espina finished her B.M. degree at the St. Scholastica's College of Music and her M.M. degree "Summa Cum Laude" at the UST Conservatory of Music where she is a full-time faculty member. The Three will perform the works of Mendelssohn, Tansman, Piazolla , Poulenc, Glinka and Gershwin.

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**PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER**
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting application for
Academic Year 2007

**FELLOWSHIPS:**

I. Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department
  - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
  - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

II. CV Anesthesiology Division
  - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

III. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division
  - 3 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

**RESIDENCES:** (For Medical Board Passers)

I. CV Radiological Sciences Division
II. Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division
III. Nuclear Medicine Division
  - 1 year Fellowship Program is available for the above Residencies

**General Requirements:**

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2006
- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

Please address your communications to:
**ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.**
Department Manager
Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI - July 16 22 23 29 30 Aug 6 7 13 14 20 21 27 & 28 2006)

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Fax No. (02) 889-7829

# OBITUARIES

"My soul, be at rest in God alone
from whom comes my hope"
PSALM 62:6

*In Loving Remembrance of*

"MAMACHIE"

## LUCILA O. SAN-GIL

**October 31, 1922-August 15, 2005**

On the eve of the First Anniversary of her death, her family asks the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul

Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following Churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Parish of Sta. Rita de Casia**<br>Sta. Rita, Pampanga | 5:30am |
| **Holy Face of Jesus, Quiapo,** Manila | 6:00pm |
| **Our Lady of Loreto Church**<br>Bustillos, Sampaloc, Manila | 8:00am |
| **Holy Family Church,** Greenhills, San Juan | 12:15pm |
| **Abby of Our Lady of Montserrat**<br>(San Beda Coll.) Mendiola, Manila | 7:00am |
| **National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary**<br>(Sto. Domingo Church) Quezon City | 6:00pm |
| **Immaculate Conception Church**<br>Los Baños, Laguna | 6:00am |
| **Sacred Heart of Jesus Church,** Dhaka, Bangladesh | 6:30am |
| **St. Brigid Church,** North Fitzroy, Victoria, Autralia | 9:15am |

Masses have also been offered this August at:
**Cathedral of St. Patrick,** New York, New York
**Parish of St. Sebastian,** Woodside, New York
**Society for the Propagation of the Faith,** New York, New York

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## JAIME E. SARABIA

*Peacefully joined our Lord
and his wife **Conching** on August 12, 2006
at the age of 70.*

His children: **Dondi** and **Jennie, Grace** and **Elmer**; and **Raymund** and **Tina**; grandchildren **Tricia, Ai, Christopher, AJ** and **Francis**; brothers, sisters and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #8 Diego Silang corner J. Zobel Street, Project 4, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

---

Born on December 31, 1906 to the late spouses
**ATANACIO SOLIS** and **MARCIANA KASILAG**

# MARCIANO KASILAG SOLIS

**of Taal, Batangas**

at the age of **99**

*has peacefully joined his Creator on*
***August 9, 2006** and his wife **PACITA VERGARA** †*
*and son **LUIS** †.*

He is survived by his loving children,
**LOURDES, LEONARDO, LYDIA,**
14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

He is the brother of the late **Atanacia Solis Aquino,
Judge Juan K. Solis, Macario K. Solis
Felix K. Solis, Vicenta Solis Carandang,
Dr. Martin K. Solis, and Waldy K. Solis.**

His body lies in state at the family residence
in Taal, Batangas. Interment will be on Wednesday,
August 16, 2006 after the 3:00 pm Funeral Mass
at the Basilica of St. Martin, Taal, Batangas.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

### TWO-YEAR PROGRAM

# DOF backs lifting of travel tax in BIMP-Eaga

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has endorsed the plan to again exempt travelers within the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asia Growth Area from paying travel tax.

An official from the DOF said the agency has endorsed to Malacañang the proposed two-year travel tax exemption, and that the Palace was expected to soon issue an executive order to put it into effect.

Up until 2004, travelers within BIMP-Eaga were exempted from travel taxes to help boost tourism in the region.

Individuals on business class pay a tax of P2,700, while those riding economy pay P1,620 each.

Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, lobbied for the revival of the tax exemption, the finance official said.

Dureza, who discussed the proposal with President Macapagal-Arroyo, noted that the lifting of the travel tax helped increase the number of tourists going to Mindanao.

The DOF earlier said it was not in favor of again lifting the travel tax on grounds that the taxes, estimated at P1 billion a year, were set aside to fund projects and programs of several government agencies.

These include the Philippine Tourism Authority, Commission on Higher Education, National Parks Development Committee, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the official said.

But the DOF was eventually convinced by Dureza that the exemption was needed to boost trade and tourism in the region.

# PSE income up 3.3%

**By Elizabeth L.Sanchez**

HIGHER MEMBERSHIP AND SERvice fees from clearing and settlement of stock trades have led to a slight 3.3-percent increase in the first semester income of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The PSE said in a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission that it yielded a profit of P106.7 million as of end-June this year on the back of a 26-percent increase in operating revenues to P205.2 million from P162.6 million last year.

Membership fees hit P33.6 million due to higher trading volume this year from P29.5 million last year, while service fees reached P46 million, up from P10.2 million, due to the increase in clearing fees.

The rest came mainly from listing fees, amounting to P110 million, down from P112 million in the first half last year.

Operating expenses, on the other hand, rose 20 percent to P110 million in the first half from P91.6 million in 2005 due to salaries and other staff-related expenses as well as donations to the PSE Foundation.

In another development, leading stock exchanges in the Asean region have thrown their support behind an idea floated by the PSE to form their own federation to boost the region's capital markets.

PSE president Francis Lim brought up the idea to a panel composed of senior officials of Asean stock exchanges and securities exchange commissions in a recent Citigroup-sponsored regional conference in Singapore.

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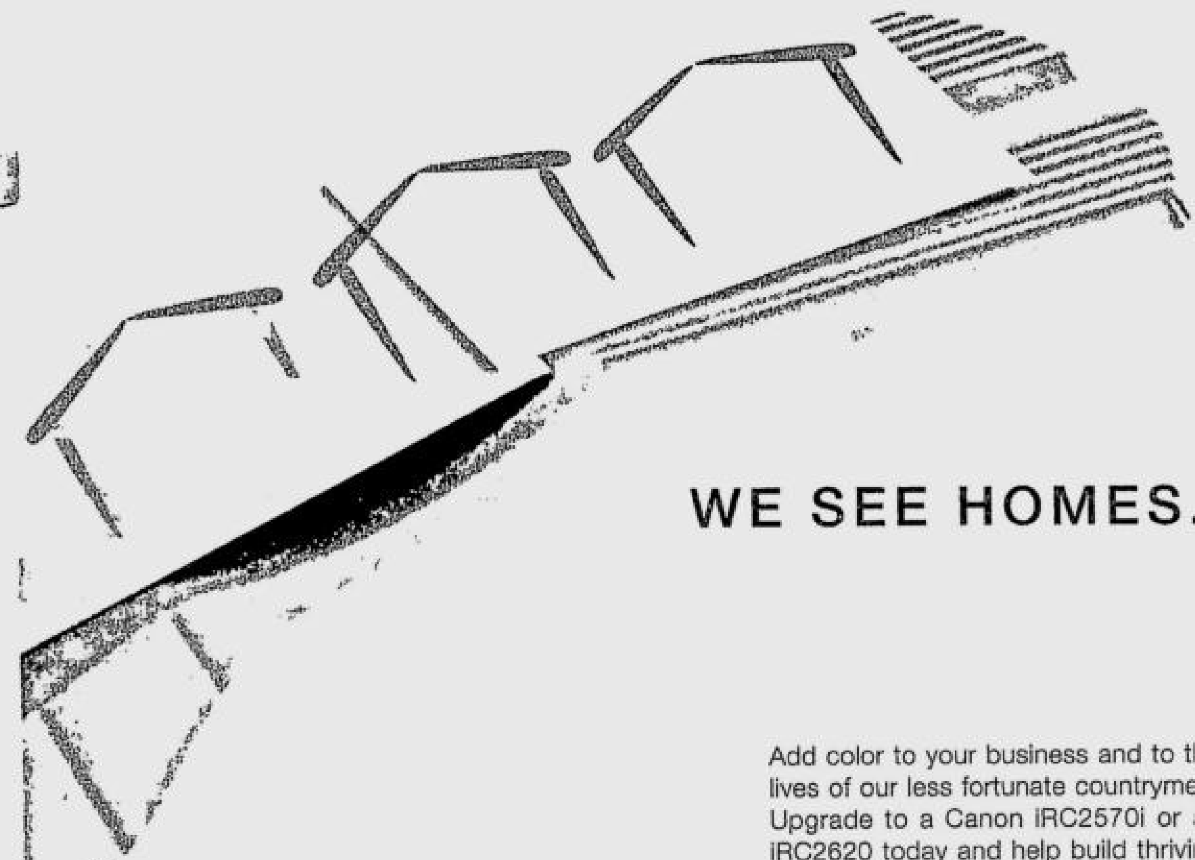

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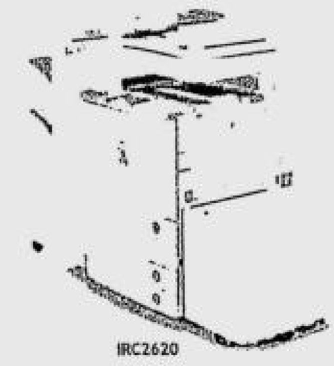

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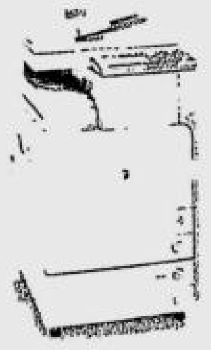

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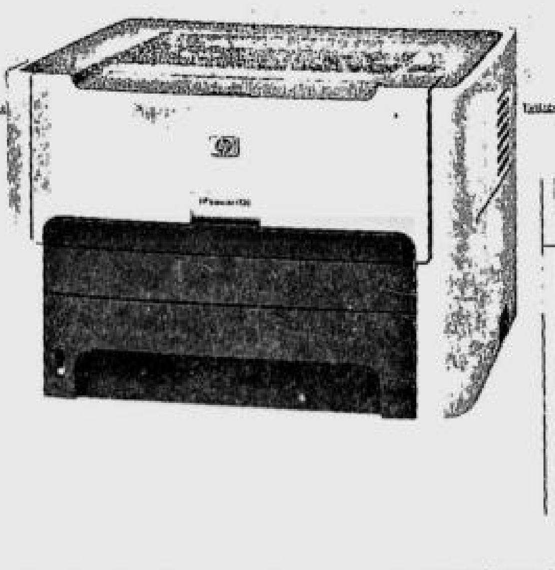

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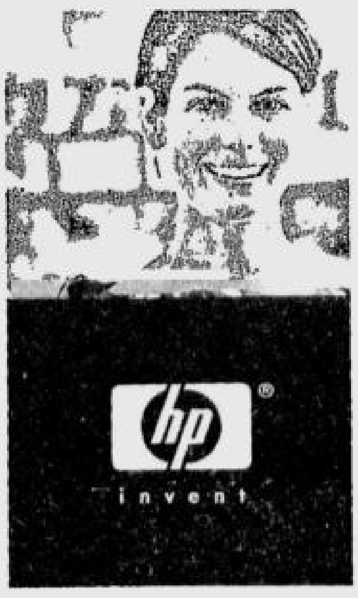

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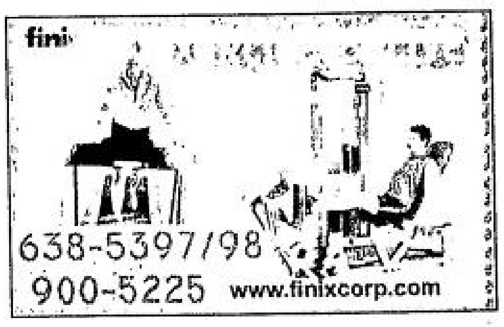
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# Taking CSR to heart starts with the head

## Survey shows CEOs buy into social responsibility, but many employees do not know what it is

'PROFIT is the enab
power to achieve the
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**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

TAKE CORPORATE social responsibility to heart.

This was the call of The League of Corporate Foundations, the umbrella organization of the country's biggest foundations, on the private sector this year.

And to make this happen, the LCF says that the chief executive officer must be involved and committed to make corporate social responsibility part of the company's corporate culture, an integral part of the way it does business.

Simply defined, corporate social responsibility refers to companies' efforts to do more than just increase profits.

As Vic Villegas of the Management Association of the Philippines says: "Profit is not the main purpose of business; it is the enabling power to achieve the fundamental purpose of business, which is to enable human development and service to society at large."

### Serving

Serving society means different things to different companies.

Some extend their efforts to protect the environment. Others prefer to put their money in education, while there are those that are into the development of more small- and medium-scale enterprises.

But the LCF presents the view that CSR must become an indelible part of the corporations' corporate culture for it to become truly meaningful, and taken to heart, and not just a high profile campaign to get on the good side of the public.

### Starts from the top

The process starts with the chief executive officer, for it is to him or her that the rest of the employees look up to in determining how serious the company truly is in pursuing its avowed projects for the customers, employees and the community.

So how involved are the country's CEOs in corporate social responsibility programs? Do they even know what pursuing them will require?

These were just two of the questions that the LCF strove to answer through its first survey of the perspectives of CEOs of LCF member-organizations on CSR.

The results showed that all of the LCF-member CEOs were personally involved in leadership programs to push CSR projects.

"This is a strong indication that the CEO respondents acknowledge the importance of CSR and are taking on a leadership role in implementing CSR in their companies," the survey, authored by Bato Balani Foundation's Natalie Christine V. Jorge, said.

Close to 9 of the 10 CEO respondents brought up CSR issues at the board level.

This was quite an evolution from as recently as five years ago when CSR activities were relegated to ad hoc committees, with no formal structure or office supporting CSR programs.

Today, a number of the CEOs said they have board structures, such as CSR executive committees or compliance committees focused primarily on CSR.

### Not just out of goodness

And the CEOs were not getting themselves involved simply out of the goodness of their heart.

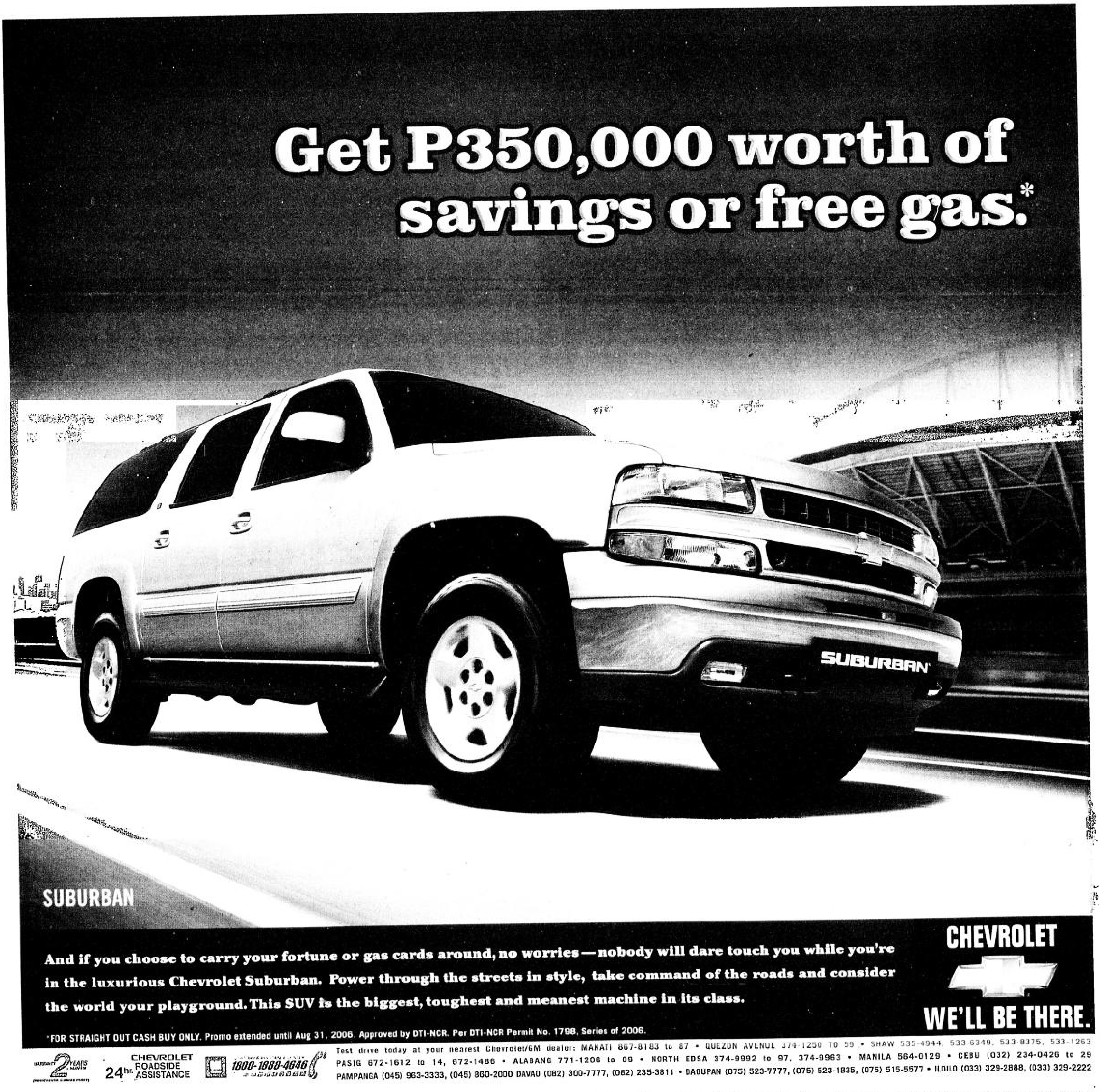
It just makes perfectly good business sense.

The survey showed that the CEOs were primarily motivated by their need to burnish the reputation and brand equity of their company; enhance their competitiveness and market positioning; and attract, motivate and retain talented employees.

By achieving these, as many as seven of 10 of the CEOs believed that CSR programs would eventually translate into higher income, the survey said.

But while the CEOs and perhaps the managers directly in-

TAKING / B2-2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## MOVEMENT

### ECCP's new prexy

THE EUROPEAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN the Philippines (ECCP) recently announced the election of Tertius Vermulen as its new president.

Vermeulen, president and chief executive officer of Siemens Inc. Philippines, will hold the top post at the ECCP for the next year replacing outgoing president and Union Fenosa regional director Emilio Vicens.

Other ECCP elected officers were Maersk-Filipinas Inc. president Eric Moeller Nielsen, vice president; DataOne Asia chief executive officer Cyril Rocke, treasurer; and Hubert d'Aboville (Pamatec), Warwick Bedwell (Roche), Edgar Chua (Pilipinas Shell), Andreas Heizner (Lufthansa Technik), Peter Labrie (BNP Paribas), Guenter Matsschick (Maschinen und Technik), Bernard Poplimont (Puratos), Michael Raeuber (Danzas AEI), Manuel Salak III (ING Bank), Amado Tadena (GlaxoSmithKline), Maria do Carmo Vidoeira (Soluziona) and Brendan John Whyte (Q2HR Solutions), directors.

Established in 1978 and with 720 member companies, the ECCP assists in the establishment of trade and business links between Europe and the Philippines.

# Taking CSR...

From page B2-1

volved in implementing CSR programs were clear about how these programs would impact on the bottom line, many employees were not as sure.

The survey showed that only three of five CEOs said that their employees and management were sure of what CSR is and what it means to the company.

The rest of the employees were only vaguely aware, which should prompt the CEOs concerned to more effectively bring their CSR message across.

This was perhaps why only 38 percent of the regular staff of companies covered by the survey were directly involved in CSR activities, compared to 68 percent for senior management and 69 percent of the board of directors.

As much as 19 percent of regular employees were not involved at all, compared to just 6 percent of the board of directors, 6 percent of middle management and 13 percent of senior management.

To get more employees to buy into the program, the CEOs said there were five things they needed to do to embed CSR values and policies in the company and among the employees: Communicate values and policies internally; gain board support; gain senior management support; engage in dialog and partnerships with external stakeholders and embed social and environmental considerations in the innovation process.

There is still some way to go before CSR becomes as part of the Philippine corporate culture as watching the bottom line and grabbing market share, but Jorge said that at least one thing was clear: The commitment and dedication of the LCF member-CEOs to lead and initiate social development programs to make a positive difference in the lives of people and communities that surround them is there.

# The continuing quest for innovative strategies—II

## MAPPING THE FUTURE

*Esther C. Tan*

PHASE 3 OF OUR GROWTH CURVE, the Integrative Phase, signals a period of decline. This is really the heart of our subject matter this morning. Because in Phase 3, external factors have created an environment wherein the old patterns of success no longer apply. In order to survive, the organization must find innovative solutions and be able to integrate the new and the different.

Today's developments in business and industry seem to suggest that Phase 3 is coming along much sooner. And indeed, more and more organizations, like Sun Life, are finding themselves in the 3rd Phase. The irony is that many who are struggling to find innovative strategies look at these mature companies in their current state, when most of them are simply muddling through Phase 3.

### Knowledge evolution

One should study the strategies of these companies before they became No.1 or No. 2, for real insight into the innovations that made these companies great in the first place, what their value curves are and compare it with your own.

But is Transformation for a Phase 3 organization really a sustainable alternative? Or should we accept decline and eventual demise as the natural, the inevitable end for a company once it hits Phase 3?

Perhaps it is worthwhile to return to our continuing saga of human evolution for the answers to these questions.

Evolution reached a critical stage with the human race. This critical point was the development of language—in particular, written language. Some scientists now say that this development is comparable in importance to the development of DNA. And this is because it meant that information could be passed on, from generation to generation, other than genetically through DNA.

In the 10,000 years of recorded history, there has been no detectable change in human DNA brought about by biological evolution. But the amount of knowledge handed down from generation to generation has grown tremendously.

All this is to say that we have now entered a new phase of Evolution. There are two major implications in this stage of our evolution. The first is that people now have to specialize, in narrower and narrower fields. In the 18th century, there was said to be a man who had read every book ever written. Today no one person can be the master of more than a small corner of human knowledge.

### Exponential growth

The second implication is that there is no time to wait for Darwinian evolution to make us more intelligent. The growth of knowledge has been exponential in the last 700 years. On the other hand, the brain with which we process this information has evolved very little. It may very well be that we have now entered a new phase of what might be called self-designed evolution, in which we will be able to change or improve our DNA. In fact, this has already started with the ambitious project of mapping out the entire sequence of human DNA. Once humans have read the book of life, writing corrections to modify both our intelligence and resistance to disease won't be far behind.

Going back to the context of business and our quest for innovation, what does this therefore mean?

For one thing, with the complexities of modern business, the Internet, globalization and the like, companies will have to narrow their focus to be more competitive. Newer product categories will come out at an accelerated pace as consumers become more and more sophisticated, and the companies that focus best will emerge the most successful. This is one of the 3 characteristics of a good strategy as mentioned in their book, the Blue Ocean Strategy by Chan Kim and Mauborgne: focus, divergence and a good tagline.

You will have to resist the temptation of trying to come out with a product that does everything for everybody—the super brand. That rarely works, unless a real convenience is offered the consumer by bundling product benefits. We've tried that out in Sun Life with an "integrated" product that has life insurance coverage, a mutual fund component and pre-need plan to boot ... and since we've launched the product 2 years back, it has not taken off. Perhaps this is an idea whose "Time" has not come?

It must be very clear in the minds of people what your product stands for. In the same vein, it must be absolutely clear in the minds of people what your company stands for. Mercedes Benz knows this, and so does Starbucks, and all the other brands that stand out in a specific and well-defined product category.

### Competitive innovation

More than this, if your company is not the number one in your industry, competitive innovation requires that you not only do something different, but oftentimes doing exactly the opposite of what the number one is doing.

We examined our strategy canvas and decided then that we needed to differentiate ourselves from competition, the divergence element of a good strategy.

Our move in integrating all three of our companies in 2003 well illustrates this point. At a time when the competition was in a frenzy setting up full blown subsidiaries for related product lines to seize what seemed to be endless opportunities in the business, we made the hard decision to integrate our newly launched mutual funds and pre-need operations with the life company. We had a falling out of employees, resignations, departures etc. I was getting a lot of flak. But we carried on and persisted.

Many at that time felt that our move towards Integration was ill advised; the opposing opinion was that in an integrated operation, resources are not dedicated enough to achieve desired growth levels for each specific business. On the contrary, what we really wanted to achieve by Integration was Focus.

We wanted to present one clear and distinct "Face" to the public about what Sun Life Financial was all about. We did not want three different versions of what our company meant to people, depending on what business line was talking. We are a financial institution devoted to ensuring the financial security of people over their lifetime. And when one talks about financial security, you're really talking about risk protection.

The risks that we've focused on are: 1) the risk of dying too soon, 2) the risk of living too long, and 3) the risk of catastrophic illness. All our products and services, be they in life insurance or in pre-need or in mutual funds, address these three risks ultimately. So we use the tagline of "Financial Freedom for Filipinos."

We also wanted an integrated, seamless backroom operation to efficiently handle the service requirements of our clients with multiple products across all three-business lines.

### Professional advice

But perhaps the biggest product of Integration for us was that it led the way for the transformation of our agency force from product pushers to financial planners. That, in it, was a significant differentiation in the way protection products are distributed in the country. Consumers started to see our agents not as salespeople just out to get the sale and never to be seen again, but professionals who provide solid advice on how to secure one's financial future at whatever stage in life he or she may be.

I will not say that we have completed the transformation of our agency force, which we started 3 years ago since we still have a long way to go. Rome was not built in a day, and the road to success is always under construction, but the initial impetus we got from this was enough for us not only to become more effective in tapping new clients, but also in increasing our wallet share from our existing clients.

Integration removed the barriers and brought down business line silos, and the end result was that it made us more nimble in seizing market opportunities as they arose.

This was a key reason for the success of the "Tune Into Your Future" pre-need campaign I told you about at the start of my talk. We are prepared as an organization to seize the opportunities; our agents were trained to discuss with prospects and customers all three lines of businesses.

### Innovation

The other implication for companies in the 3rd phase is the need for it to "design" its own evolution. Companies in Phase 3 must embark on a new Phase 1. But it is not as simple as it sounds, because these companies will have to deal with legacy issues: With the burden of existing systems, roles and procedures that no longer work. This involves transforming the entire organization. Beyond that, it involves building the capability and the flexibility within the organization to transform itself at will, evolving as its environment evolves.

Truth to tell, hierarchy is the biggest obstacle to change. We found this out when we went through the BPR experience I was telling you about earlier. People may want the change, but not necessarily the changes in the plan. They may have their own ideas about what should change, and frequently it revolves around someone else changing, but not they themselves. But as I always say, you can't be afraid of stepping on toes if you want to go dancing.

I suspect that the organization that will be able to design its own evolution will not only require the involvement of everyone in the organization, but will develop everyone in the organization to be leaders. The chief executive of such an organization will not only be a maker of leaders, but will be a leader of leaders.

### Leader of leaders

Perhaps we can all get a glimpse of the organization of the future in companies like Gore Associates. Malcolm Gladwell, in his huge bestseller, "The Tipping Point," describes Gore as a very unusual company with a clear and well-articulated philosophy. Gore is the maker of gore-tax fabric, and they also make dental floss, filter bags, semiconductors and a variety of diverse products. It's a multimillion dollar firm that behaves like a small entrepreneurial start-up.

At Gore, from the CEO down, there are no titles. Everyone has "Associate" written on his or her calling cards. Employees don't have bosses; they have sponsors and mentors, who watch out for their interests. There are no elaborate organization charts and salaries are determined collectively. Early on, Gore has realized that the optimal manpower count for a plant is 150 employees, and when the headcount starts to exceed this number, that signals the need for them to put up another plant—even if the new plant is just a few blocks away from the original. In other words, Gore has discovered the power of small group processes and dynamics in maintaining an entrepreneurial mindset in the organization.

### Good reputation

As company's practices may seem, by all accounts Gore's free flow management style is wildly successful. It is consistently on the list of the best American companies to work for. Its growth rate is the envy of its industry, and Gore has been profitable for 35 consecutive years.

One thing must not change—and that is, your company's good reputation. So much is lost when we cannot summon the courage of our convictions in the pursuit of profit. I recognize that today I stand before the very captains of Philippine business, and as such I exhort you never to forget this as you get your people from where they are to where they have not been. As a famous American essayist once wrote, "institutions, after all, are but the lengthened shadow of the individual. Life is for one generation; a good name is forever."

*(The author is chair of Sun Life Financial Phils. This article is based on her lecture at a recent MAP forum. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)*

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| Fox News | | Beltway Boys | Fox News Watch | Bulls & Bears | Cavuto On Business | Forbes On Fox | Cashin' In | Fox & Friends | | | | | | Fox News Live | | | | | |
| GMA 7 | Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat | Now and Forever (3:15 PM) | Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM) | | Sayuki | Dragonball Z | Jewel In The Palace | 24 Oras | | Captain Barbell (7:10 PM) | | Majika | | I Luv NY (8:50 PM) | Love Of The Condor Heroes | Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita | | | Saksi |
| Hallmark Channel | | | | Judging Amy | | Sue Thomas F.B.Eye II | | McLeod's Daughters | | Strong Medicine | | Hustle | | Judging Amy | | Roman Spring Of Mrs. Stone | | | |
| HBO | | | Hooper (3:45 PM) | | | | No Big Deal | | | Mother (7:15 PM) | | | | Curb your Enthusiasm 01: The Pants Tent | Curb Your Enthusiasm 02: Ted And Mary | Curb Your Enthusiasm 03: Porno Gil | Curb Your Enthusiasm 04: The Bracelet | Entourage 05: The Script And The Sherpa | Entourage 06: Busey And The Beach |
| Hero TV | Gamburagar | Rune Soldier | Duel Masters | Super Gals | Mirmo de Pon | Sugar The Snow Fairy | Naruto | Inuyasha | Saiyuki Reload | Full Metal Panic | Yakitate! Japan | Mr. Ajikko | Transformers Armada | Yu-Gi-Oh GX | B'Daman Bakugaiden | Beyblade G-Revolution | Gamburagar | Rune Soldier | Naruto |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Krusada Kontra Krimen | | Japan Video Topics/ Ams | | EBC Earth Files | | Travel Philippines | Japan Video Topics/ Ams | EBC Earth Files | IBC News Tonite | Home Shopping Network | |
| JackTV | | Raw | | | | Cinema Tech | Evolver | Beat The Geeks | Street Smarts | Mad TV | | That 70s Show | Jack Yard | Monday Movie Madness | | | | The Late Show with David Letterman | |
| Lifestyle Network | Get Color | 30 Minute Meals | Wolfgang Puck | Sweet Dreams | Smart Solutions | Sensible Chic | Embellish This | Barefoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Food 911 | E! Extra 101 Most Awesome Moments In Entertainment | | NY Fashion Week | Martha | | Radical Sabbatical | Genuine Article | Good Finds | Style Star |
| MTV Philippines | | Wildboyz | 8th & Ocean | | MTV Hits | | | | | Get Spotted | | TRL | | Wildboyz | 8th & Ocean | MTV Hits | Handpicked Kyla | | |
| MYX | | Rock MYX | My MYX | Mellow MYX | Urban MYX | Take 5 | MYXLOG | MYX Firsts | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Mobile MYX Top Picks | | Urban MYX | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | MYXLOG |
| National Geographic | Wild Orphans | National Geographic Specials | | Naked Science | | The Living Edens | | Top 5 - Predators | | WOW! Dangerous Encounters: Dens of Danger | | About Asia | | Mega Speed Week | | Naked Science: The Deep | | The Living Edens: Big Sur - California's Wild Coast | |
| NBN | | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres | | Teledyaryo Sports Alsp. | | | Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila? | Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | | | Teledyaryo Final Edition | | Dial M | | Bantay OCW With Susan K | |
| Net 25 | INC Chronicles (Filipino) | In Focus | Euromaxx | Mga Nagsi Alis Sa Daang Daan | | Ang Tamang Daan | | News Beat (Live) | | OpenLine Live | Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay | Mga Nagsi Alis Sa Daang Daan | | Ang Tamang Daan | | World Report | In Focus | DWTV Journal News | Tomorrow Today |
| Nickelodeon | Chalkzone | Hey Arnold | SpongeBob SquarePants | Rocket Power | Four Eyes | SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top | My Life As A Teenage Robot | All Grown Up | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | The Fairly Odd Parents | Drake & Josh | Unfabulous | Romeo | Naturally Sadie | SpongeBob SquarePants | As Told By Ginger | The Fairly Odd Parents | My Dad The Rock Star | |
| PBO | | | Kuwatog | | | | Tina, My Tina Bunsan Binibining | | | | Mga Batang 45 | | | | Wanted Perfect Mother | | | | Bukas May Umaga |
| Qtv | Goodluck | Shaman King | Outlaw Star | Galaxy Angel | MMS (My Music Station) | | Moms | | Phoenix | Irene | Fireworks | Damo | Project 11 | H3O Ha-ha-ha Over | | News On Q | Sapulso | | Irene |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping | | | | Kapatid Show | RPN Aksyon News | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | Scare Tactics | Movie Monday | | | | | Newswatch Now | Go Negosyo | | Cargo For Truth |
| SBN 21 | | | | | | | | Sony Music Video | | | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Sony Music Video | | Sony Music Video | |
| Solar Sports | | Boxing: B. Viloria Vs. D. Gabi | | | | | | O.T. Shaq part 1&2 | | Sagupaan | | Beach Volleyball FIVB Women's Norway | | World Pool 2006 Masters | | Solar Sports Desk | NBA Access | World Table Tennis Sr.: Timo Boll vs. Lin Ma | |
| Sports Plus | | | | Golf Today | Nopi Tunervision | Ultimate Fighting Championship As Real As It Gets | | | | Party Poker.com World Open 2005 | | | | World Game | | The International Final Rd | | | |
| Star Movies | | | King Kong (3:35 PM) | | | | | 10 Things I Hate About You | | | Curse Of The Komodo | | | Out Of Reach | | | Saw | | |
| Star World | | The Bold & The Beautiful | | General Hospital | | Desperate Housewives | | The Simpsons | Malcolm In The Middle | Star News Asia | Seinfeld | My Wife And Kids | Still Standing | Yes Dear | Becker | For Better Or Worse | | Seinfeld | My Wife And Kids |
| Studio 23 | Bewitched | YuGi-Oh 3 & 4 | | | | Batman Beyond | Dragon Booster | 6Teen | Blog | Wazzup Wazzup | Charmed | | Lost (8:20 PM) | Alias (9:10 PM) | | News Central | America's Next Top Model | | Travel Time |

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# Marking half a century in the Philippines

PHILIPS PHILIPPINES TURNS 50 this month.

The firm started operations in the Philippines in 1956. It has served markets and operations that have progressed from local to regional to global, and has proven vital to the company's international operations.

Its semiconductor division, which is celebrating its 25th year of operations in the country, has become a competence center for the semiconductor business.

The company is active in the fields of healthcare, lifestyle and technology with a broad portfolio of products and technologies in lighting, consumer electronics, domestic appliances and personal care, medical systems and semiconductors.

Royal Philips Electronics executive vice president Gottfried Dutine, Philips Asia Pacific president and CEO Ad Schevers and Philips Philippines president and CEO Med Mateo will lead a two-day anniversary celebration this month with a series of activities to mark the event.

Highlighting the activities will be the inauguration of the magnetic resonance imaging system at the Philippine Heart Center (part of the DOH-Netherlands Government ORET project which was arranged by Philips Medical Systems), the full turnover of housing ownership certificates to recipients of the 100-unit GK Philips Village in Calamba, Laguna, a corporate exhibit which tours Davao, Cebu and Manila, a gala dinner to honor the company's top business partners, corporate friends and most prized assets—the employees.

"The company's most potent strength, next to brand recognition, is our people," Mateo said. "These people—our employees, partners, dealers and customers—are the heart and soul of Philips Philippines."

Philips' brand promise of "sense and simplicity" is the anchor on which it does things. It is the company's way of ensuring that what it offers in the areas of healthcare, lifestyle and technology meets an individual's needs and brings simplicity to people's lives.

"We at Philips Philippines are passionately committed to helping improve the lives of the Filipino people through innovative and meaningful products. We have been doing this in the tradition of the founders of Philips—Gerard and Anton Philips—who proved it was possible to succeed in business while increasing the people's quality of life," Mateo said.

The company is into several sustainability initiatives to uplift the state of local healthcare, improve teaching facilities at several public schools, provide scholarships to deserving young Filipinos, give inspiration to promising inventors, and build homes to those displaced by the development of infrastructure.

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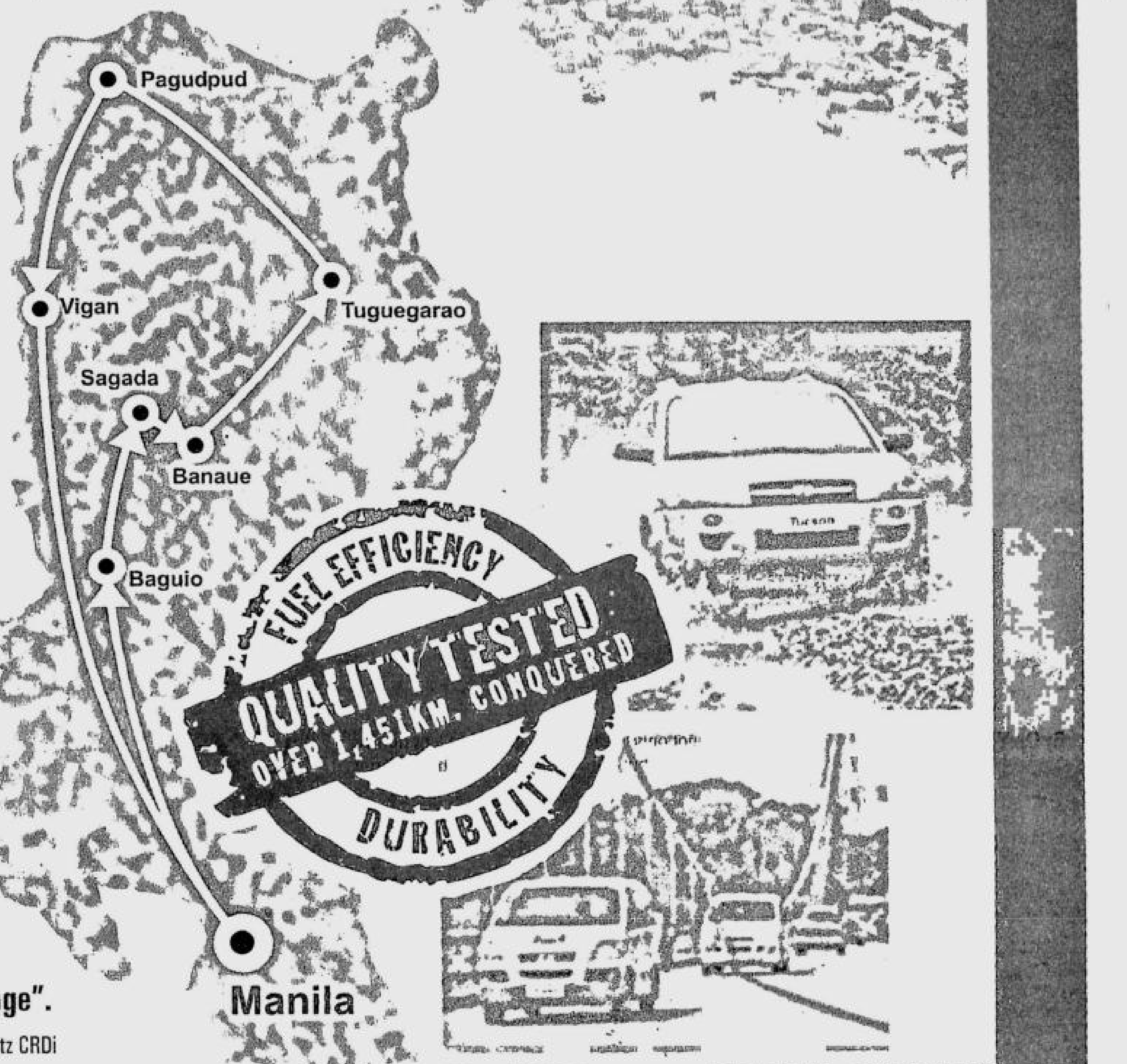

## GOING BEYOND THE PROMISE OF FUEL EFFICIENCY.

In the various test-drives conducted early this year, Hyundai has consistently proven its impressive kilometer per liter ratings such as the Accent's 38.07km/li*, the Getz's 19.19km/li* and the Matrix's 25.1km/li*. These value-per-kilometer feats attest to the fuel efficiency of the CRDi technology, a diesel engine breakthrough that powers the latest Hyundai line-up of passenger and commercial vehicles.

The next challenge was to demonstrate Hyundai's undeniable traits of power, torque, speed, versatility, maneuverability, handling and durability.

## 1451 KILOMETERS IN 4 GRUELING DAYS SPANNING EXTREMES IN ROAD CONDITIONS.

From flat roads to the rugged, winding, uphill and downhill terrains, The Getz, Matrix, Starex, Tucson and the Accent were proven resilient, responsive and sturdy under pressure.

Coming from the backbreaking and demanding test run, Hyundai vehicle handlers and passengers had these to say of their overall driving and riding experience:

**"Amazing power and thrift in a compact package".**

Vince Pornelos of C! Magazine on the Hyundai Getz CRDi

**"I can't imagine that such a great thing would come in a small package. I think it can be best summed up (in relation to the movie)... You're living in a Matrix, but now you're driving in one".**

Ronald Rey delos Reyes of AutoReview on Matrix CRDi

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Drive your way

**"Powerful acceleration especially when overtaking".**

Art Guevarra of Phil-Am Savings Bank on Hyundai Accent CRDi

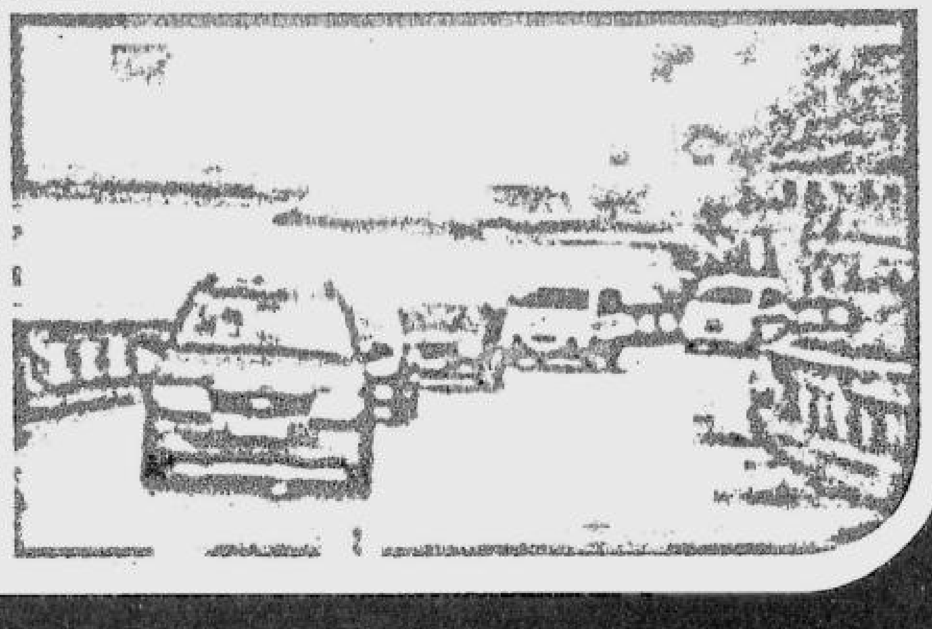
**"Smooth ang drive and it's really made for long drives".**

Bebot Reyes of Automobiles Association of the Philippines (AAP) on Tucson 4WD CRDi

**"A dream ride for all mankind".**

Francis Chi of Aw2spec.com on Starex GRX CRDi

Globally, Hyundai has been recognized by the J.D. Power & Associates as the 3rd highest nameplate among automotive brands in its 2006 Initial Quality Study, a survey measuring customer satisfaction towards a particular product or service. In the same study, the compact SUV entry, the Hyundai Tucson, won the Highest Ranked Compact Multi-Activity Vehicle award.



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BUSINESS *Monday*

*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

# More than just nips and tucks

## Entrepreneurship potentials in medical tourism in the country

**By Eduardo A. Morato Jr.**
*Former Dean,*
*Asian Institute of Management*

DESPITE THE EMphasis emphasis of past Philippine administrations on industrialization and agriculture, these sectors of the economy have never delivered their desired outcomes.

With not much fiscal help from the government or policy prioritization, the services sector has climbed steadily over the decades to claim half of the Philippine working population.

Quite obvious to very many, the most prominent economic star and large generator of jobs among the players in the services sector is the IT-Enabled Services Industry.

This includes call centers, medical transcription companies, software . designers and animation outfits.

Clearly, the full potential of IT-enabled services in the global market has not yet been exploited by the Philippines. As a country, we are a far distant placer from frontrunner India in this game but Filipino entrepreneurs are furiously mustering capital to enter this lucrative market.

### New kid on the block

But there is a new kid on the services block which threatens to steal the thunder from the IT industry. It promises to deliver more jobs, more value added and greater multiplier effects for the Philippine economy.

Simply, it is called medical tourism. But that might be too limiting for some of its participants or too wide a definition for others who see a clear distinction between the medical part and the tourism part.

To accommodate the wide range of participants and maximize the potentials of the industry, I would go for "Cross Border Health and Wellness Professional Care Services."

I prefer cross border to the word tourism because the latter may be too "touristy" for a heart bypass patient electing to do his surgery in the Philippines.

Tourism also implies the arrival of foreigners to our shores but precludes such health and wellness potentials as telemedical services, export of Philippine research services and health systems consultancies, and the training of foreign health professionals by Filipinos abroad or here in the Philippines.

HEALTH and wellness deserve further development and aggressive marketing efforts.

I prefer health and wellness to medical because the latter may be construed too narrowly as illness or disease treatment by doctors whereas there are huge potentials in not only the physical but also the emotional, mental and spiritual wellness of customers.

I prefer to limit the scope to professional health and wellness care services because I do not want to include uncertified, unlicensed, unregulated and unprofessional service providers who may well serve their own purposes but may not pass the rigorous standards of a global health and wellness market.

As a country, the competitive edge of the Philippines lies in its services sectors. Health and wellness definitely deserve further development and aggressive marketing efforts.

### Most preferred workers

The global community has welcomed the diaspora of Filipino health professionals, practioners, therapists and care givers into their hospitals, homes and hospitality centers.

As a people, Filipinos are known to be good, dedicated and service-oriented workers. The competitive ranking of Philippine labor as one of the most preferred in the world attests to that.

In Asia, several countries have positioned themselves as major players in cross-border medical services which are, in many cases, packaged with tourism amenities.

India has been successful in attracting South Asians and their nationals living abroad to avail of top-notch medical services. They have been able to lure their professionals back to the homeland with state of the art hospital facilities.

Singapore has positioned itself in high value services such as education, health, arts, finance, banking and others to attract an international clientele. Their proximity to Indonesia and Malaysia affords them a large market base for health services inspite of their limited population and geographic space.

Singapore wants to serve the more acute medical needs of their clientele.

Thailand has long been a tourism mecca. They have been able to parlay a sizeable slice of this huge international market into medical tourism. Roughly, a million tourists come to Thailand for medical purposes combined with rest and recreation opportunities.

A big number of tourists visit Thailand for plastic surgery, cosmetic operations and aesthetic treatment although their top international hospital facility renders the usual wide array of medical services.

Other countries, such as Jordan and Malaysia, are similarly positioning to be major international health service providers and destinations with their own

MORE THAN/ B3-2

# *How to make RP a beautifying capital*

**By Dr. Vicki Belo**
*Medical director, Belo Medical Group*

MY DREAM IS TO MAKE THE PHILIPPINES one of the beautifying capitals of the world. The others being New York, Brazil, Beverly Hills, Paris and Thailand.

Why do I feel we deserve to be among the world's best?

1. Our surgeons are extremely well trained and have excellent aesthetic sense.

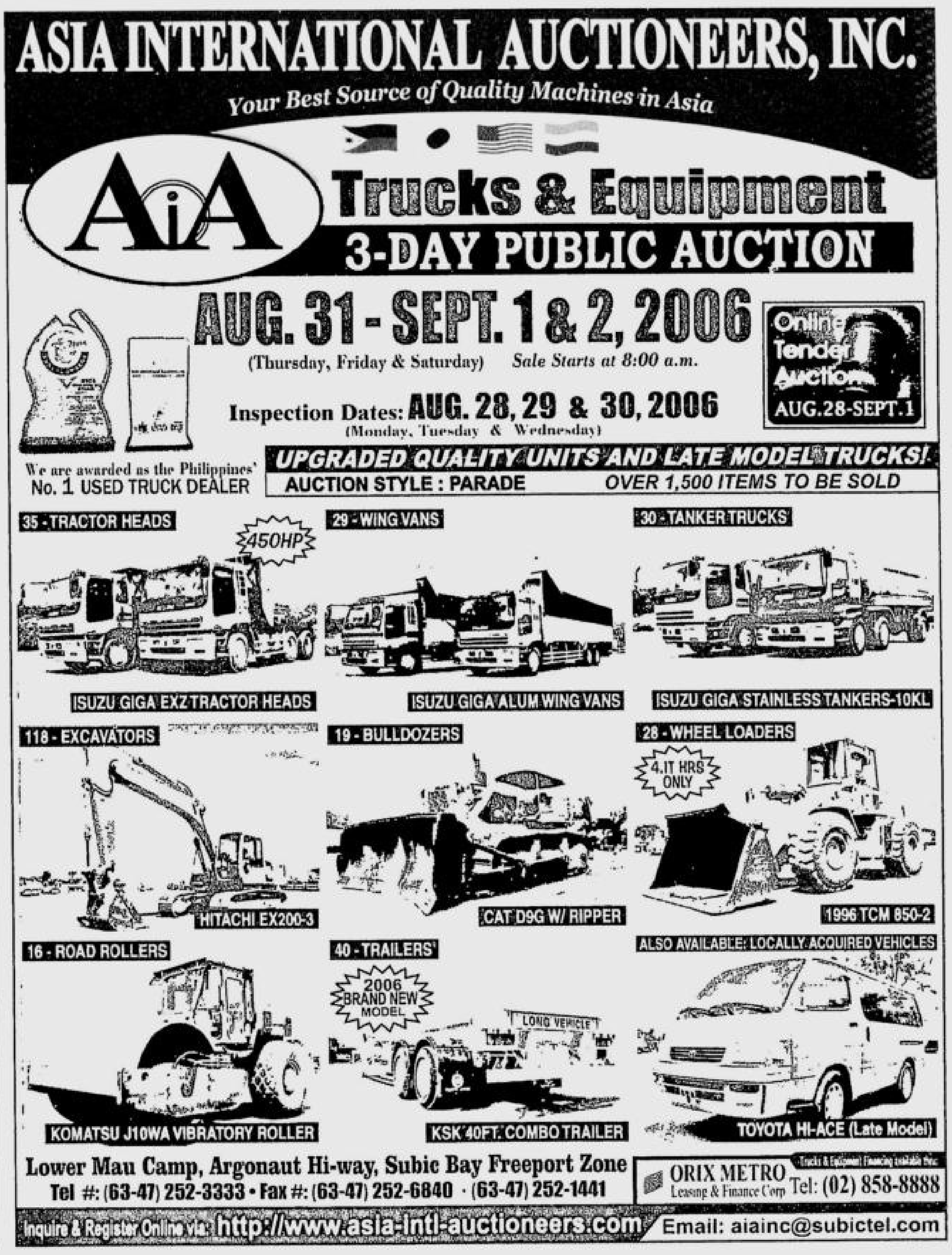
2. We speak English, the international language, fluently.

3. We are a naturally caring race. Our nurses are known to be the best in the world not only because they have excellent nursing skills but also because they have caring hearts.

4. Most of the cosmetic surgery are out patient procedures so the patients, required to stay for about a week in the country while recuperating, can either go shopping or go to our wonderful resorts

5. The procedures here are about one-third the price abroad yet achieve equivalent or even better results. Our physicians are used to dealing with the Asian skin, which is much more sensitive and prone to scarring than Caucasian skin, so we have learned to

HOW TO/ B3-2



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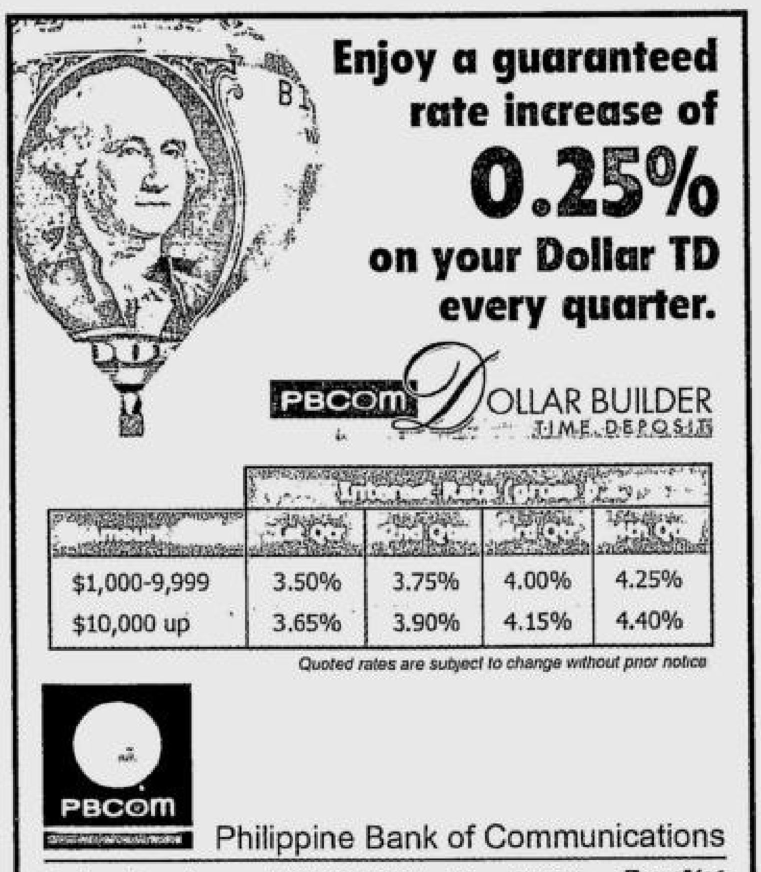

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# Ex-salesman goes into techie world, succeeds

## He lost his shirt the first time, but gambled again and won the second time around

**By Corrie Salientes-Narisma**

TIM, now on its 21st year in the field dominated by MNTs, faces new challenges armed with its skilled personnel, stronger alliances and sound financial condition.

JOSE MARI M. ANTUNEZ, President and CEO of Total Information Managment, had about 10 years of marketing and sales experience as an employee behind him when he plunged on his own in the 80s.

It wasn't exactly the best time for start-ups then so it was almost expected that the furniture he set up did not last.

"There simply was no one buying because times were really hard, so we just closed shop," Antunez recounts.

But Antunez, then in his early 30s, refused to give up. He put up another company and took a big gamble by selling computers to a market that was virtually in a standstill. In keeping with the times, however, he did not dare go into the latest in the world of technology. Instead, he went into importing and selling refurbished old computers, which were all most local enterprises could afford in those days.

### MNC-dominated sector

Now on its 21st year in business, Total Information Management Corp. has gone a long way. What used to be a mere supplier of refurbished IBM mainframes has evolved into one of the largest, if not the largest, Filipino-owned information technology companies in the country, with a wide range of IT products and services to offer.

TIM today is worth about P700 million, a far cry from its initial capital of P125,000. TIM has operations in Makati, Alabang, and South Super Highway, as well as a maintenance hub in Cebu. These serve clients nationwide--top banks and financial institutions, most of the country's telecommunications firms, a number of big manufacturing and services-oriented companies, and several government agencies and state-owned corporations.

It consistently posted double-digit yearly growth rates in the last decade, making it among the country's top 1000 corporations.

TIM prides itself in being the only 100-percent Filipino IT company that survived and thrived in a field dominated by multinational players for more than 20 years now.

In partnership with some of the biggest names in IT, TIM Corp. offers computer hardware, software and solutions. It also provides business recovery services, hardware maintenance, system integration, network services and other outsourcing services-data center management, remote desktop management and application support.

### Milestones

Its decision to shift from just distributing imported refurbished computers to doing the refurbishing itself a few years after starting operations marked the start of TIM Corp.'s growth and evolution.

"Sophistication came in time. The computers we sold needed to be maintained, so the next natural step was to put up an engineering unit and we started evolving from there," Antunez says.

From a mere distribution office staffed mostly by sales people, TIM started hiring engineers to maintain the computers it was selling. Himself a salesman, Antunez started learning the ropes of running an IT business and understanding the technology it was selling.

The track record it had established after five years in business had won for the company the trust of multinational computer hardware makers and solutions providers.

In 1990, TIM marked another milestone as it entered into the distribution of brand-new computers in partnership with some of the world's biggest computer companies.

First came the distributorship deals with Digital Equipment, then the No. 2 in the world after IBM. Two years later, with EMC2, now the world's leading supplier of enterprise-wide intelligent storage and retrieval technology. These were followed by partnership deals with other hardware makers including Sun Solaris.

### Going forward

With its hardware and maintenance business already well-entrenched in the market, TIM decided to take another step forward by going into the distribution of software or solutions, also in partnership with some of the world's biggest providers such as Oracle, Microsoft, Infosys and Computer Associates.

As the local market turned more and more sophisticated in using technology, TIM saw to it that it was there to meet the critical needs of its main clients.

Responding to what Antunez had anticipated as the most urgent need of its market, TIM put up a unit that provides business recovery systems for mainframes and mid-range servers. It provides back-up services that assure subscribers of continuity of their IT operations in cases of planned or unplanned events that will render their own data center inoperable.

The business recovery center initially catered to banks but its client base later expanded to include telcos, insurance companies and other enterprises with great need for back-up facilities.

TIM started with only three people, including Antunez. The organization now has 130 people, 50 of them engineers, and is still growing.

### Expansion direction

TIM had set its vision of becoming the most admired and responsive IT firm company in Asia. To achieve this goal, it is always on the look out for opportunities for growth. And growth for TIM, it believes, will come from several directions.

One growth area , according to Antunez, is the banking industry which is expected to go into a massive shift from bulky mainframes to the more sophisticated and smaller server systems. He says the opportunity in this area is tremendous as most local banks still use mainframes.

"Of the top 10 banks in the country, only three have shifted. More are expected to shift soon," he says.

Still in the domestic front, TIM is closely looking into coming out with new products, especially fraud management solutions for telecommunication companies, credit card firms and utilities.

"We are working on convergence billing system for these companies," Antunez says.

Another area with great growth potential is the foreign market. "We have to get foreign jobs , through outsourcing arrangements, to fuel our growth," he adds.

The company believes it is ready to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead given its skilled personnel, stronger alliances and sound financial condition.

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# How to make ...

From page B3-1

suture very carefully and hide the scars.

### Belo strategy

Tourists are usually a bit scared to come here because of our bad international press. Credibility and trust are of utmost importance hence:

For the past two years, the Belo medical group has had two papers published in international journals like the American Journal of Cosmetic Surgery specifically on aptos thread facelifts and in the American Journal of Dermatologic Surgery on IPL photodynamic therapy for acne.

I've also been invited to speak in two upcoming international symposia at the International Society of Laser Surgery symposium which will be held this August in Turkey and at the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery in Palm Dessert, USA.

It's usually extremely prestigious to be published because hundreds of papers are submitted to these publications but only a handful see print.

Recently, I was informed by Thermage International that the Belo Medical Group is the number one user of Thermage worldwide. The president and vice president of Thermage USA will be coming to Manila to award us a plaque signifying this.

Thermage is very popular worldwide and for someone in a small country like the Philippines to be number one in the world is really something to be proud of.

I have also been included in the educational video of Deka International, an Italian company that developed the smart lipo because worldwide we have the most experience using the laser lipolysis machine as part of the liposuction procedure.

These efforts were done to establish our credibility in the medical world for the potential patients.

### Our activities

1. Last year, I gave a Belo beauty talk in the Hotel Nikko in Los Angeles. It was so well attended with 850 people, we had to turn many away. It was an informative talk on services offered by the Belo Medical Group

We have tied up with various tour operators worldwide who will arrange beauty vacations which include everything from airport pick up to appointments at any of our six clinics plus rest and recuperation after their procedures included in the package.

2. We have voluntarily sought accreditation from the Department of Health and were the first ambulatory surgicenter approved by DOH. DOH has certified that we have state of the art equipment premises and practices.

The Belo Group makes sure that we have all the latest state of the art lasers and machines. I'm constantly traveling and attending seminars to make sure we have the best of what the world has to offer

In the last year, we were the first to bring the following machines to the Philippines: Thermage, Fraxel, Smart Lipo, Pan G A muscle reeducation machine.

We have built a two-storey building in Westgate Alabang Filinvest which has hotel-like rooms for out of town patients to stay.

Together with DOH and top hospitals and clinics, we have formed a group which meets monthly to brainstorm how to market medical tourism abroad.

We have met with DOT secretary Ace Durano and assistant secretary Eduardo Jarque on how Belo can partner with DOT in their marketing efforts.

I also went to San Francisco with the Wowowee group to attend the biggest ever Filipino event at the civic center in order to urge every Filipino abroad to act as an ambassador for the Philippines by bringing one American friend to the Philippines for a cosmetic surgery procedure.

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# *Laptops take walk on design side*

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

LAPTOP USERS ARE GROWING in number and they now are now more design-conscious than ever, said Hewlett-Packard Development LP (HP) in a press statement.

HP has embraced the trend toward the integration of fashion and style into technology and electronics.

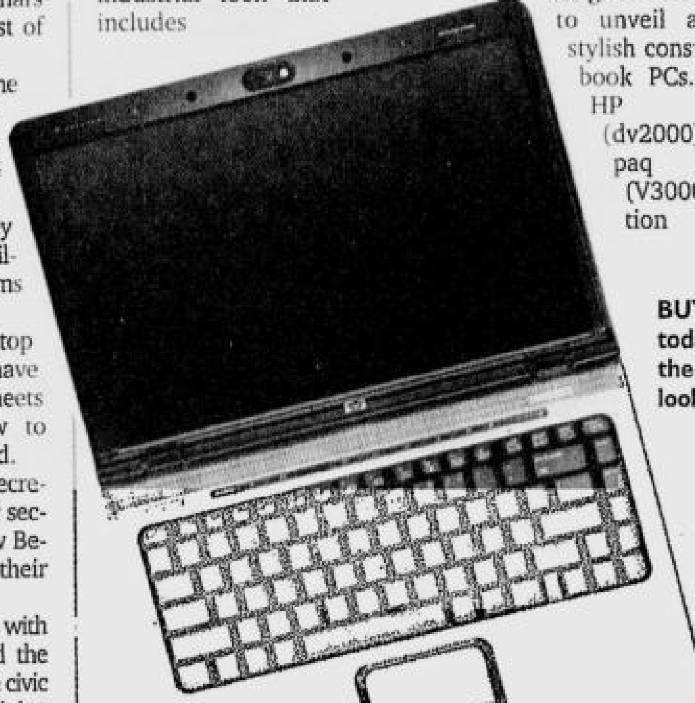
And there is a term for this fusion: Fashion-tronics.

HP said it stumbled onto fashion-tronics when it conducted research in various countries to understand consumer design preferences. As part of its study, HP asked respondents to choose which designs appeal most to them and what features they most want in their laptops. The result showed preference for an industrial look that includes metal and high-gloss parts, as well as enhanced games and multimedia features.

"While functionality and performance are still key consumer purchase drivers, factors such as style and sophisticated aesthetics have become increasingly important," said HP Australia market development manager for consumer notebooks Nicholas Lynch.

"The development of HP's new Pavilion and Compaq Presario Notebook PCs best represent consumer demands for visually appealing products, featuring powerful processing capabilities and delivering an unparalleled mobile entertainment experience," Lynch added.

To manifest its newfound focus fashion-tronics, HP partnered with Australian fashion designer Peter Morrissey to unveil a suite of stylish consumer notebook PCs. The new HP Pavilion (dv2000) and Compaq Presario (V3000) collection combines an industrial look with advanced technologies catering to increasingly tech-savvy yet style-driven consumers.



**BUYERS today prefer the industrial look.**

"As technology becomes more infused in our daily lives, like fashion, we are drawn to products that reflect our personalities, attitudes and sense of style. What was once considered only for the tech geek is today setting trends in the fashion industry. HP's new designer notebooks have broken the mould from being functional tools and have now become fashion and lifestyle accessories," Morrissey said.

To up the ante on style, HP used what it calls "Imprint finish"—a high-gloss coating with an inlaid design. Using an advanced molding technique—often used for cell phone casings, cosmetic packaging and luxury car interiors—the HP Imprint process provides a durable finish with a fashion appeal. HP Imprint was developed in cooperation with Nissha Printing Co., based in Japan. HP said it is the first computer maker to apply this advanced molding to an entire notebook.

The Pavilion dv2000 series has a chassis formed with a subtle, textured wave-pattern with polished Piano black gloss casing that incorporates an integrated webcam, with omni-directional microphones a removable miniature remote and touch sensitive media launch buttons enable users to launch DVDs, photo albums or MP3 files in seconds.

Meanwhile, the Compaq Presario V3000 series Notebook powered by an AMD Turion 64 X2 processor and also featuring the new touch sensitive buttons, and a 14.1 inch BrightView wide-screen LCD is encased in a brushed metallic finish with gun-metal highlights.

Multimedia and entertainment was also a key consideration for HP when designing the v3000. The most eye-drawing evidence of this is the row of touch-sensitive "capacitive buttons"—backlit by blue LEDs. The quick-launch buttons are located just above the keyboard. These enable users to adjust volume, mute audio/video playback and launch HP's instant-on multimedia player feature.

Inside, the HP Pavilion dv2000 series and the Compaq Presario v3000 series are powered with the Intel Centrino Duo Mobile Technology that enables users to perform multiple operations at the same time without sacrificing speed. Both notebook models can also transport excellent wireless networking capabilities on the move.

The dv2000 series come with a 1.3 megapixel webcam that can make video calls, capture clear video and still images plus two omni-directional microphones. The NVIDIA GeForce 7200 graphics card enhances visual effects and multimedia functionality for better games and multimedia experience. The HP dv2001, the first of the series, retails for P84,950.

Under the v3000 series, the Compaq Presario v3060 retails for P59,950 and the Compaq Presario V347, for P69,950.

HP is a Fortune 11 company, with offerings spanning IT infrastructure, global services, business and home computing, and imaging and printing. For the four fiscal quarters ended April 30, 2006, HP revenue totaled $88.9 billion. It is publicly listed in the New York Stock Exchange and the Nasdaq bourse.

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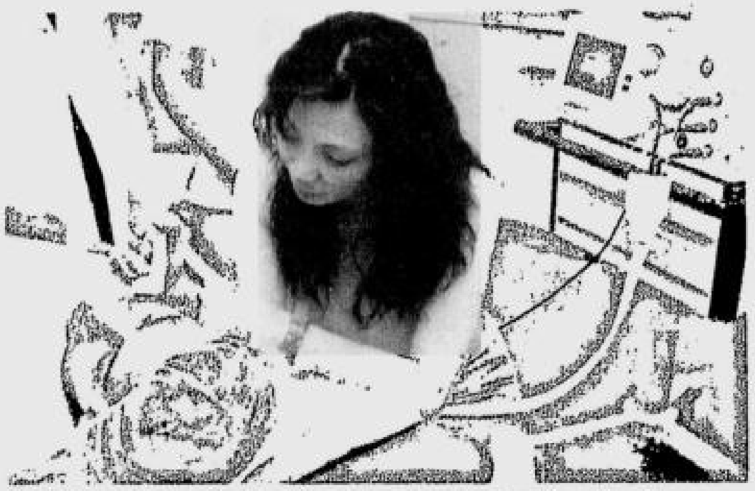
# More than ...

From page B3-1



**NEW term for medical tourism: Cross border health and wellness professional care services.**

customer focus.

### Drivers of demand

Globalization of health and wellness derives its impetus from several drivers of demand. Health costs have gone up in Europe, North America, Japan and Korea.

For that part of the population without good health insurance or for that part seeking elective surgery or aesthetic procedures, cheaper health services abroad would be attractive.

The aging populations of these major markets have accelerated the demand for health services. Meanwhile, their number of health professionals has not kept up with the demand, often necessitating the influx of foreign health workers, many of whom are given migrant status and highly attractive salaries.

There are long waiting times and queues for patients in these northern countries, who are then strongly motivated to seek treatment abroad where medical services can be accessed more readily.

The growing numbers of migrant workers, from such countries as India and the Philippines, create a natural market for their home nations for specialty clinical services such as eye treatments, dental works and elective surgeries.

Those without health insurance would definitely be enticed to go back home for mandatory surgery. Geographic proximity to Japan and Korea are good for Asian health service providers. The relatively low transport fares from Europe to Thailand or Singapore cut a major cost of the entire medical tourism package. The high traffic between the West Coast of North America and the Eastern Pacific is another conducive condition for promoting cross-border health and wellness services in this part of the world.

Lagging behind in this global trend, the Philippines must seek its unique positioning. Our natural markets, such as OFWs and Balikbayans (especially from the US) will definitely be a plus.

The growing clientele from Micronesia has been experienced by our top hospitals as well as our specialty clinics. Right to the north of us are the major markets of Japan, Korea, Taiwan and, soon, China. Geographic proximity (for the nearby northern markets) and national identity (for OFWs and Balikbayans) are definitely great starting points. However, we must have a more compelling proposition.

As a strategic positioning, therefore, we must offer something the others might find difficult to match.

"Filipino health and wellness professional services are experienced at their global caring best in the homeland of the Philippines."

Our major value proposition should be our health professionals and service providers. If there is such a huge preference for Filipino health workers globally, the rallying battlecry for the country should be quality, compassionate and culturally sensitive health care for the world, right in our homeland, the Philippines.

# Businessman convicted of software piracy

**By Erwin Oliva**
*Contributor*

AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF LEGAL BATtle, a Philippine court convicted a local businessman found violating the intellectual property rights of software makers Microsoft and Adobe Systems, court records showed.

Nestor Yao, managing director of Gains Computer and Telecommunications Inc., was found guilty on two criminal cases filed against him, according to a decision of Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr. of Branch 24 of the Regional Trial Court of Manila.

The local businessman faces a prison sentence of one year for one case, and three to six years for the other case. The court also required him to pay a total of P200,000.

The decision was handed down on July 13, 2006, according to court records obtained by Infotech.

Yao was found violating Republic Act No. 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines.

He was found engaged in the illegal copying, sale and distribution of unlicensed software from both foreign companies.

Yao was charged in December 1998 and in February 1999 for copying and illegally loading computers with software programs of Adobe Systems and Microsoft.

In a statement, the Business Software Alliance (BSA) lauded the court's decision.

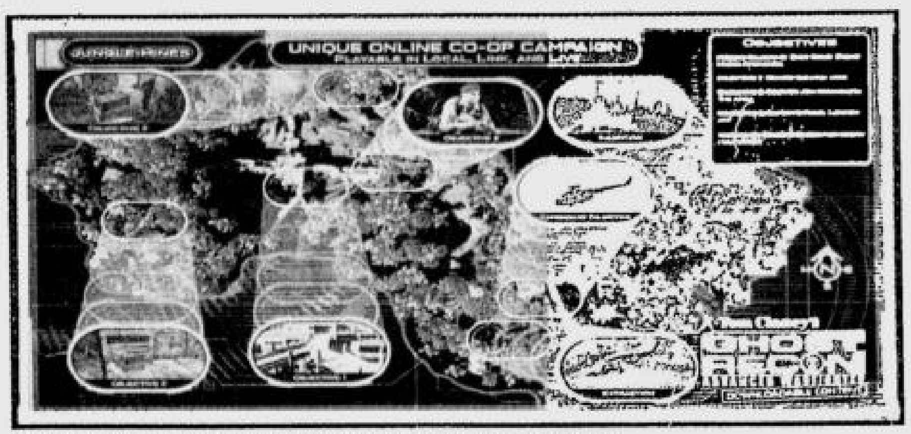
"We applaud the court for its decision to convict Mr. Yao guilty of IPR violation. This conviction is indeed a victory for the intellectual property community and underscores the government's efforts in promoting respect for IP rights," Tarun Sawney, BSA Director for Anti-Piracy in Asia, said.

BSA is a non-profit organization protection of intellectual property rights. Both Adobe and Microsoft are members of the BSA.

Sawney hopes to see more pending IP cases in the Philippines resolved.

"We are also looking forward to the fast action of the judiciary to the other software IP cases pending in court. With the commitment of the justice system in steadfastly pursuing cases against IPR violators and the continued efforts of the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, we are confident that the government is in the right direction in its fight against piracy," he added.

Under the IP Code, illegal copying and sale of counterfeit software will carry a penalty of nine years imprisonment and a fine of up P1.5 million.



THE XBOX version has an over-the-top heads-up display.

# Great game gone. . .

From page B3-4

playing the hard mode but I was able to finish it in exactly 7 hours. The game itself is very linear and it's not easy to get lost, unlike in the PC and Xbox 360 versions where players can move to different locations without having to follow a given route. Sad to say, it's like having a walk in the park.

Nonetheless, GRAW for the PS2's ultimate goal is to give PS2 players a chance to play a great game especially since Ubisoft has been creating really good games for the PS2, notably Prince of Persia series, Splinter Cell series and Rainbow Six series (the last two being also Tom Clancy creations). If you're just looking for an afternoon of ceaseless linear shooting, GRAW is for you. But if you also have an Xbox 360 or even a good PC, it's best to play GRAW on these platforms and not waste your time on the PS2 version.

The next evolution of mobile computing

Whether we have been aware of it or not, being wireless has changed the way we work and play. No longer tied to our desktop computers at home or work, we're empowered to take our life wherever we please.

A recent poll by Intel confirmed that the mobile lifestyle is no longer the exclusive domain of business travelers. 86.4 percent of the respondents said that they use a laptop to surf the Internet looking for information on restaurants, shopping and local attractions, 83.7 percent check e-mails, 67.2 percent send or edit photos, and 60.3 percent use instant messaging. The poll proves that wireless mobility is mainstream in Asia.

The evolution of mobility is now so developed it is possible to enjoy the comforts of home computing while sitting on top of the Great Wall of China, visiting an expo at the Suntec City Convention Centre in Singapore or simply exploring Jeju Island in Korea. And along with life on the road, life at home has changed too. Wireless networks at home are commonplace as more family members get online and more products offer wireless connectivity. In fact, according to a report by Forrester Research , 83 percent of wireless access users connect at home making the home the most popular place to roam untethered.

Doing two things at once will be easy using the latest advances: checking your email while downloading pictures and putting new tunes on your MP3 player will happen seamlessly and effortlessly and simultaneously. The next generation of Intel® Centrino® mobile technology has at its heart a dual core processor, which makes it twice as powerful, for double the action - whether you want to online shop while rendering your home movie, or chatting with a friend over the internet using voice over IP technology.

Not only that, the new technology offers even higher levels of computing performance. This doesn't just mean that what you do on a daily basis will be quicker, faster and better, but many of the high-end applications you currently only use on your home or desktop computer can now be easily handled by a laptop featuring Intel's latest Centrino® mobile technology. The latest high-end game comes or blockbuster action movie alive with vivid graphics and crystal clear sound.

Intel's latest technology will also make connecting to a host of wireless Internet access points simple. By supporting even more connectivity options, while adhering to the latest security standards, you can connect to any Wi-Fi hotspot with confidence. Whether you're in the library, the airport lounge, or even in the park, you can pick and choose the connection you want - from the quickest to the most stable. If you have to work on a huge file with lots of embedded data or graphics and then need to email it to a colleague, even though you're on the beach - you can do just that.

The next generation of mobile technology will also extend battery life, so now your laptop will be able to keep working or playing as long as you do. This means being able to reach the next level on Quake 4* or watching the Star Wars* in one sitting without fear of powering off at the climax!

And it's not just about the way the technology works, it's also about how it looks. A recent survey by Intel of over 70 Asian designers found that the laptop is ranked just behind MP3 players and mobile phones as a gadget they consider to be a fashion statement. Since the introduction of Intel® Centrino® mobile technology three years ago, the industry has been able to introduce smaller, lighter, more powerful wirelessly-enabled products that can be used anywhere. By shrinking the board inside the laptop by 30 percent, manufacturers have greater flexibility to decrease its form factor, resulting in a slim and light notebook computer that looks as great as it works. ADVT.

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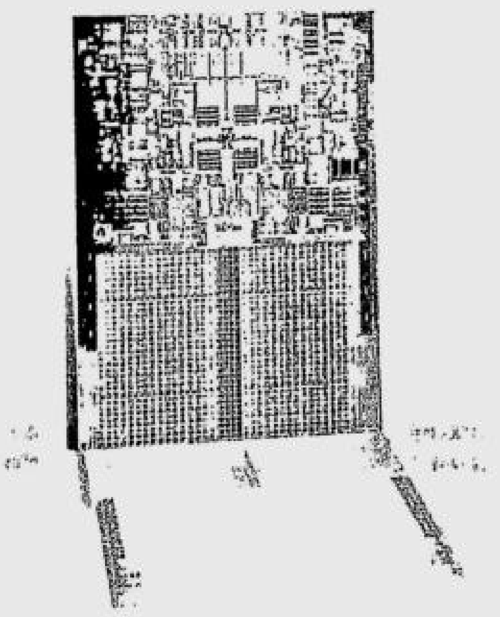

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# NTC creates team to deal with SMS spam

**By Erwin Oliva**
*Contributor*

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) designated a team within the agency to deal with complaints from mobile phone subscribers who continue to receive unsolicited SMS.

SMS, which stands for short messaging service, is a mobile phone application that allows people to send and receive short text messages. Mobile phone operators and content providers are now using SMS as a vehicle for promotion and advertising. However, operators and content providers have been accused of abusing this service.

In a telephone interview, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said the agency created the team as part of an ongoing initiative to protect consumers.

"We have issued procedures in handling text complaints. We also have posted the amended guidelines to broadcast messaging," he told Infotech.

He said the procedures will help consumers report suspected SMS spam to the agency. Details will be released later, he added.

Two months ago, the NTC scrapped plans to blacklist content providers and operators found spamming mobile phone subscribers.

Instead, the agency reverted to its original policy that puts the burden back to subscribers who should "opt-in" or agree to receive commercial and promotional advertisements via SMS.

Subscribers who do not reply to promotional text messages will automatically be "opted out" from receiving further messages.

Despite NTC's guidelines, several Filipino tech bloggers have complained about receiving unsolicited text messages without their prior consent.

A blogger known as "BernieJ" of Sta. Rosa, Laguna said in his "Talkin Tech" blog (http://berniej.blogspot.com/2006/08/informal-sms-spam-from-globe-telecoms.html) that he has received an unsolicited SMS from what appeared to be an 11-digit number from Globe Telecom.

"The message I received goes like this: From: +639164554544, Date: 8/6/06 12:48 pm, CODE: 23014 3DTI#:00-163-3 due to insistent public demand, Globe is giving FREE 100 worth of load. just pass this msg to 15 users. dial 222 after<true nga>," he wrote.

Mike Abundo, member of the Pinoy Tech blog also disclosed a similar incident in a March 2006 posting at http://www.pinoytechblog.com/archives/smart-sends-deceptive-sms-spam.

He argued local mobile phone operators were allegedly sending "deceptive" promotional SMS messages to local subscribers.

Abundo cited another blogger known as "Jepoy" complaining about the alleged unsolicited messages coming from a Smart subscriber.

"Jepoy points out that the Philippines' biggest cellco is SMS-spamming customers. To add insult to injury, the spam is deceptively written to seem like it came from an excited customer," Abundo added.

# Great game gone terrible: Tom Clancy's GRAW on the PS2

**By Alexander Villafania**
*Contributor*

GHOST RECON

Tom Clancy's
GHOST RECON
Drone Order
Drone
Call for Help
ALLEN
STELMACK
021
OLD TOWN

**THIS game could have been better if not for lowering the requirements to suit the PS2.**

PERHAPS IT'S THE PS2'S LACK OF PROCESSING power, or perhaps it was not built for this platform, but Ghost Recon Advanced Warfighter (GRAW) for the PS2 is perhaps the worst version created for the three platforms (Xbox 360, PS2, PC).

After having been awed by the graphics and gameplay of the game in the PC, it was a shock to see an extremely watered-down version of GRAW. Although I've only tried the Xbox 360 version of GRAW I saw that it was as good as the PC version (minus the overhead waypoint control) and the PS2 version was just a tad too basic. Perhaps developer Ubisoft was only trying to whet the appetites of PS2 owners who are still waiting for their beloved PS3 by coming out with a half-baked product that had too many flaws that could ruin the whole GRAW name, even that of the awesome PC and Xbox 360 versions.

GRAW for the PS2 has the same storyline as the two other versions. The Canadian prime minister was killed and the US and Mexican presidents have gone missing after a group of Mexican separatists attacked a security summit that the three were attending. But the attack was a ruse that allowed the Mexican rebels to capture a top-secret weapon that could crack every known computer security code in the US military. Your player is named Scott Mitchell and your mission is to find the two missing presidents, recover the missing weapon and stop the head of the separatist group (sounds very Tom Clancy, doesn't it?). The storyline would have carried the game despite its flaws but unfortunately, the gameplay had so many drawbacks.

The first any GRAW player would notice about the game is the video frame rate and color contrast; less than 30 frames per second and the colors are faded making it look like a PSOne game. What's more, the in-game light source has negative effects on the entire game, especially if you're looking at strong sources of light, such as fog lamps and even the sun, which ultimately fades out the entire screen if you look into it straight.

The large pixels make it even more difficult to spot enemies from afar. Even the heads up display would not help in targeting enemies from far away and only a good control finger estimate of the range of the targets could help in putting them down. Likewise, there are problems even with the infrared and night visions that are used for night attacks. The infrared is barely used because the night vision mode is good enough for assaults in the dark. But then, the night vision has difficulty distinguishing walls with tanks or a group of incoming enemies. Moreover, the reaction time of enemies being shot is considerably slow. If an enemy is killed, it takes about half a second before he goes down and makes a death-scream—very unrealistic even by first person shooter standards.

Another problem is the game's artificial intelligence—or the lack thereof. Enemies have a tendency to be extremely sensitive to the presence of the Ghost Recon team, even if you're really far away. Surprisingly, the same can be said even at night when enemies are supposed to have limited visual capabilities. It's basically useless creeping around the bushes in the dark since your enemies can spot and shoot at you even before you could take aim.

And speaking of weapons, GRAW or the PS2 have much limited arsenal. The only available weapons are a pistol, a bullpup rifle and a few grenades. Occasionally, you'll be given a grenade launcher for the rifle, a sniper gun and a heat-seeking missile launcher. Depleted weapons and health can be reloaded at tech stations scattered in the mission. These are small cart-like machines with LCD screens. While the weapons available to you are just enough to fight your way through a mission, you'll have to contend with the problem of aiming your weapon. The right analog button on the PS2 controller is very slow and does not help especially when faced with multiple enemies. Also, the lie-down position used for sniping has been removed. Instead, you only have the stand and crouch positions. Even while crouching beside a wall, your enemies can still throw potshots at you.

The whole game is also particularly short. One could finish the game in less than six hours. I tried

GREAT/ B3-3

# *1 billion SMS passing through Smart network everyday*

**By Erwin Oliva**
*Contributor*

AN AVERAGE OF ONE BILLION SHORT messaging service (SMS) or text messages are now passing through the network of Smart Communications, an executive said.

"We now have the most powerful SMS network in the world," added Napoleon Nazareno, chief president and chief executive officer of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and Smart.

This jump in volume of text messages in the country reflects the country's strong preference for SMS than voice for mobile communication.

In a briefing this week, Nazareno said the total number of mobile phone subscribers of the PLDT Group reached 22.5 million during the first six months of 2006.

Smart and Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk 'N" Text are the mobile phone subsidiaries of PLDT.

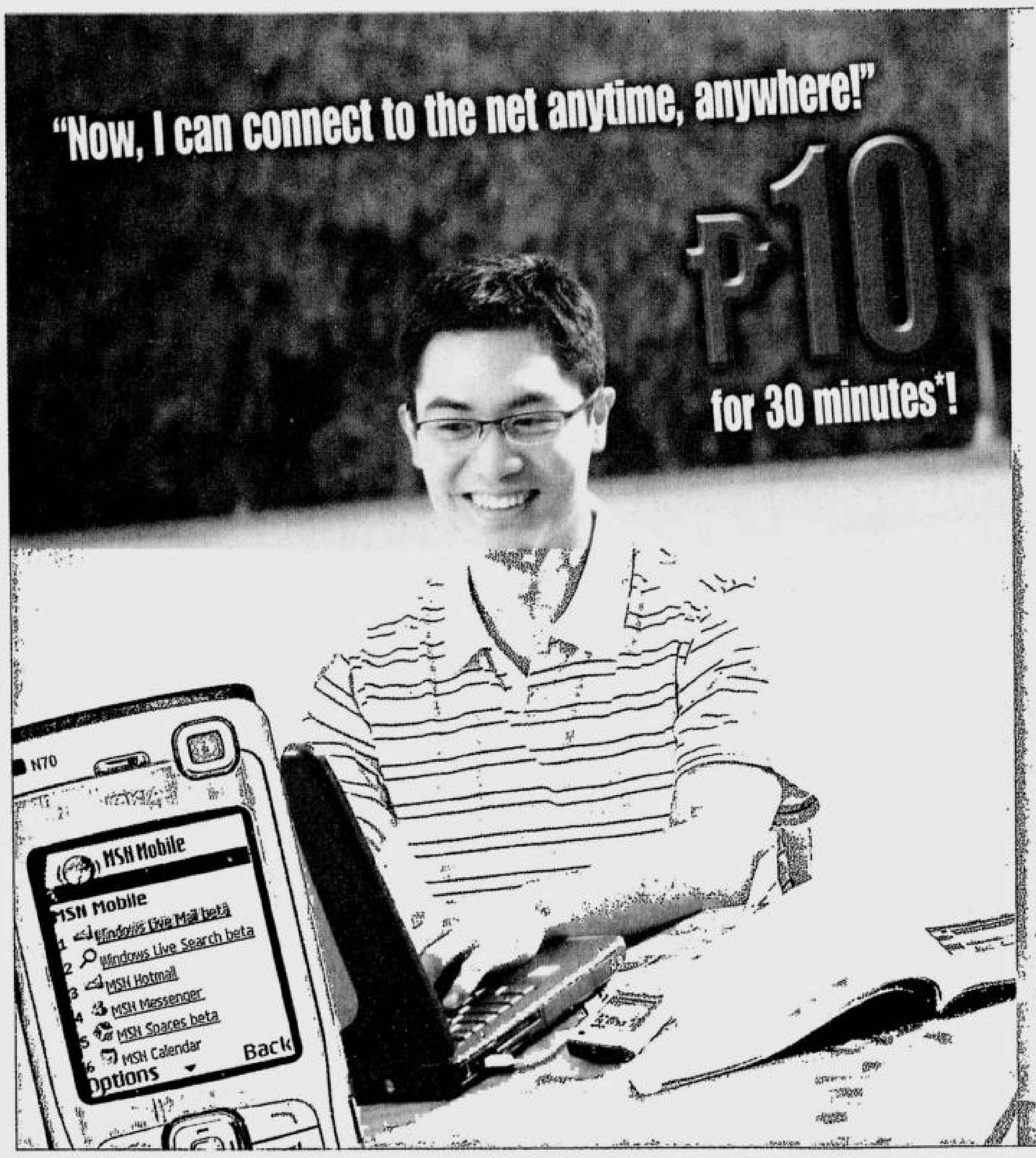
Meanwhile, Globe Telecom's first half 2006 financial report showed that its total mobile phone subscribers reached 14 million.

This brings the total of mobile phone subscribers in the country close to 37 million.

Figures from the National Telecommunications Commission indicate that the Philippines has more than 30 million mobile phone subscribers as of 2005.

Executives from both Smart and Globe predicted that mobile phone subscriber growth is slowing down.

The current total number of mobile phone subscribers is more close to half of the country's population of about 85 million.



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DAHIL SMART TAYO

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- **Pinoy opera artists** conquer Singapore /E1

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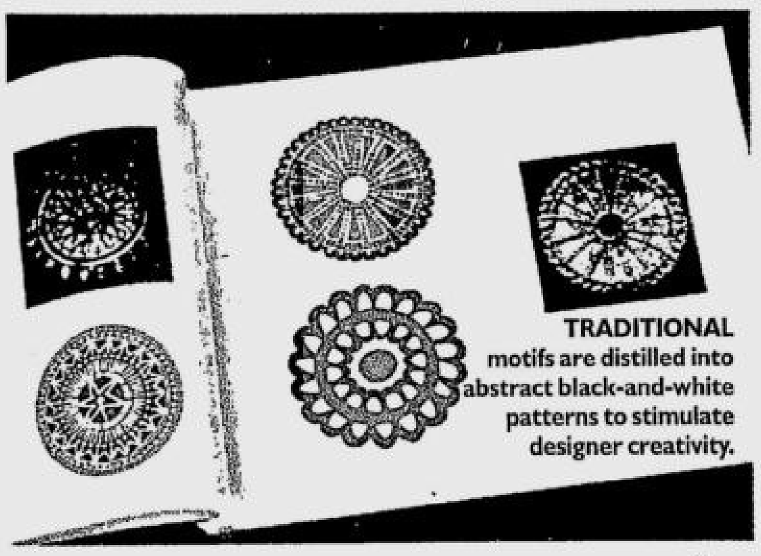

**TRADITIONAL** motifs are distilled into abstract black-and-white patterns to stimulate designer creativity.

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# Sourcebook on Philippine ethnic patterns

**PRIDE OF PLACE**

*Augusto F. Villalon*

THE PRODUCT Development and Design Center of the Philippines is launching the book "Philippine Ethnic Patterns" on Aug. 24.

The book is a design sourcebook to aid the creative industries; it's the only sourcebook of design motifs culled from Philippine traditional arts and crafts.

Finally there is now a book of patterns that designers can turn to for inspiration for new designs and product adaptations.

The entire design industry is represented in the book—practitioners in product, furniture, jewelry, fashion, theater, interior design and architecture. All creative industry professionals stand to benefit from this publication.

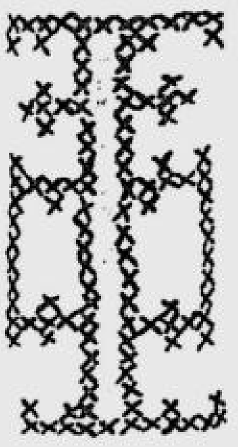
The book reduces designs and motifs taken from traditional Philippine arts and crafts into simple, flat, black-and-white line-drawn images.

The publication is linked closely to PDDCP history. When the Design Center Philippines was founded in 1973, its primary mandate was to assist the fledgling export industry to gain a larger and more significant share of the global market.

To achieve this, the office worked on improving Philippine products through better design. It also tried enhancing quality by introducing more efficient production methods.

It is a design handbook to guide the design industries

Those were the early days of exports when most products were crafts-based, when gifts, houseware, furnishings and furniture from the Philippines were almost entirely handmade. Today, most products are machine-produced.



**BAGOBO** embroidered textiles are a design source for the creative industries.

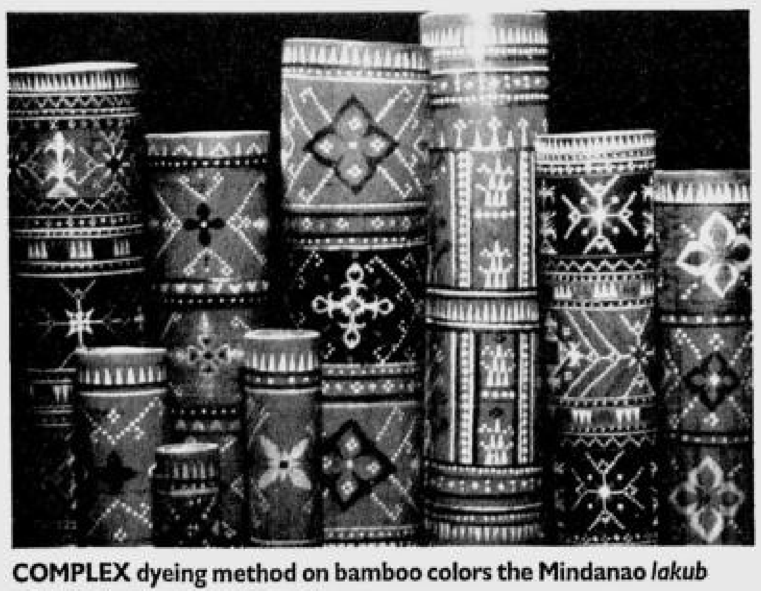
Believing that Philippine motifs provided an untapped source for ideas to improve product design, the design center embarked on an extensive crafts development program in 1974.

## Joint project

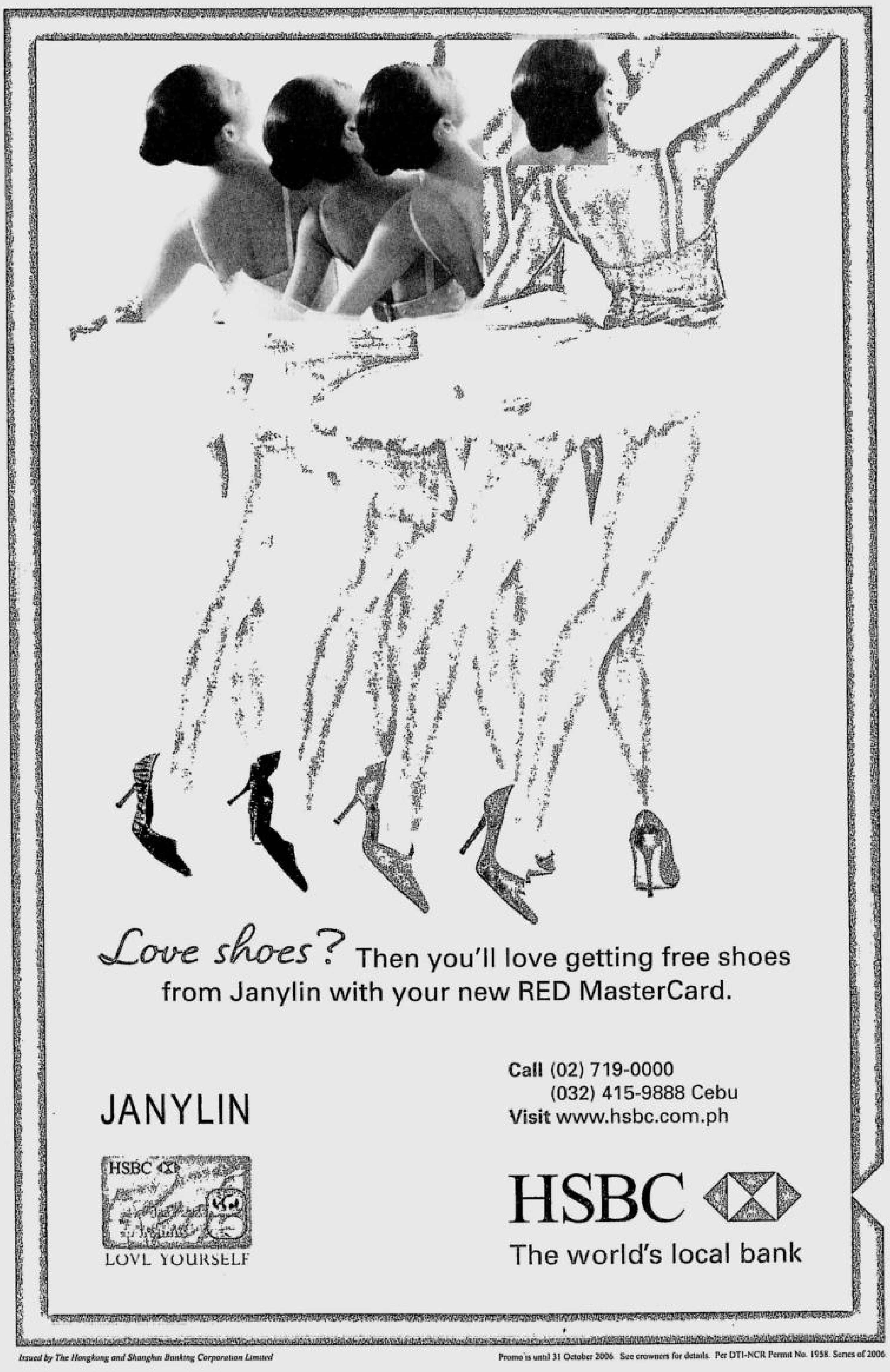
A joint project between the design center and the National Museum was established, fielding teams of researchers from both institutions to document pieces from the museum's massive ethnographic collection that were felt to be significant as future design sources.

Neal Oshima photographed selected material from the National Museum collections.

SOURCEBOOK/ C3



**COMPLEX** dyeing method on bamboo colors the Mindanao *lakub* with intricate geometric patterns.



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CUSTODIO in his studio

THE AUTHOR (left) during the opening of his Feb. 20, 1985, exhibit with Custodio, Alan Cosio and Cesar Legaspi

# Remembering Gabriel V. Custodio, conservative great

GABRIEL Custodio, landscape artist par excellence

By James Onglepho

A top artist recalls the life and times of one of the pillars of the conservative art movement and the walkout of conservative artists from the Rotary exhibit in 1955 in protest of the victory of the modernists

IN MAY 1954, I TOOK THE LIFE painting class under professor Victorio C. Edades at the University of Santo Tomas School of Fine Arts. It was the only class available in the evening, scheduled 5-9 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Because all the other classes were scheduled during the daytime, my fellow working students and I looked for another teacher outside the campus. We decided to approach Gabriel V. Custodio.

One Sunday afternoon, we went to see Custodio in his gallery at A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila. On the ground floor, many of his paintings hung on the wall. At the back was a small living room. The studio was on the second floor.

Custodio happily accepted our request for him to be our teacher. The schedule was on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 5-9 p.m., and the tuition was P30 monthly.

Our classes began on the last Tuesday of June 1954. My colleagues were Antonio Chua, Romulo Olazo, Ting Ping Lay and Ong Bungian.

Custodio's painting technique was of a high standard. His strokes flowed freely, and he used color in harmony. Most of his landscapes and still-life paintings were painted from nature, so the style was realistic.

My colleagues wanted to study still life, but I was more interested in learning landscape painting.

Custodio painted at quick speed. He could finish a 14" x 18" landscape painting in two hours. His canvas was gray in color, which I knew was influenced by his mentor, Fernando Amorsolo. Shades of gray could be seen in the sky in Custodio's paintings, as well as in his sceneries.

His landscapes used few colors and were characterized by simple strokes, but they were rich in content. Most of the paintings were low-key, with gray tones remaining visible in the background.

Spending time in Custodio's studio, I learned many things about painting.

I learned how to use, take care of, and control the brush. I learned how to mix colors and to use the basic elements of composition.

On Sundays, he and I would go to the outskirts of the city and paint. Sometimes I would stay in the studio to copy his paintings.

## Deep influence

Custodio's deep influence could be seen in my landscapes, which looked very similar to his paintings. In the 1960s, I spent a long time developing my own style.

One night, more than three months after our class under Custodio began, he got a middle-aged woman to pose for us half-nude. He probably knew we had no nude painting session in UST since it was not allowed in the school.

In December 1954, before I left for Zamboanga; Custodio hosted a Christmas party. He raffled off five small landscape paintings for each of us. It was the first time for me to attend a Christmas party. I felt very happy. Until now, the painting that I won still hangs in my studio.

In January 1955, I went back to Manila to resume our class with Custodio. After six months of training and learning discipline, the five of us had acquired mature techniques in on-the-spot still-life painting.

OPEN AIR ART EXHIBIT for the benefit of Boys Town
THE PROTEST exhibit mounted by conservative artists along Isaac Peral Street (now UN Avenue) in February 1955, after the Moderns swept the Rotary contest

Custodio treated us like his children, so every time we were in his studio we felt at home. On March 18, a birthday party for Custodio was held in the studio. We didn't have much food or a program, but we were all happy that we were together. Custodio was overwhelmed.

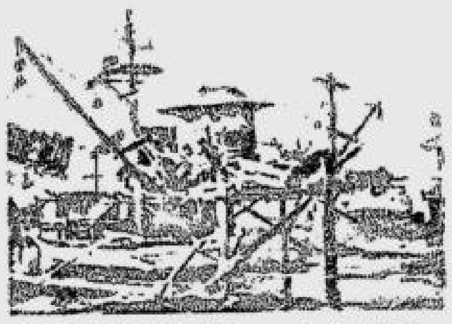
In May 1955, all my colleagues got busy, and were unable to resume our class under Custodio. I started teaching at Pasay Chinese School, and lived in the dorm.

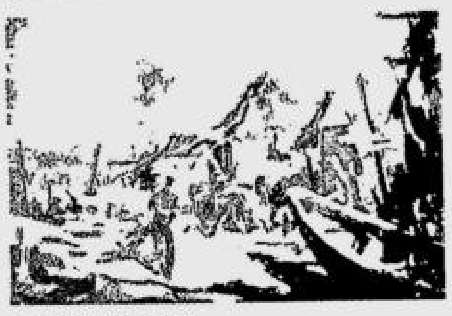
At nighttime, I would be all by myself on the campus. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, even after our classes under Custodio had ended, I would still go to his studio and stay until midnight.

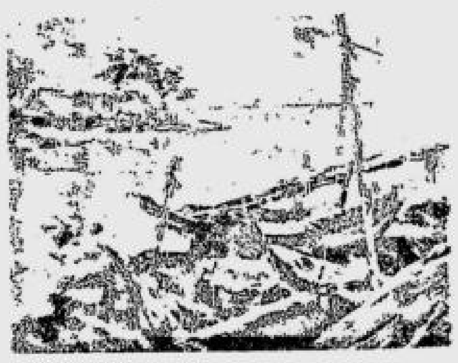
## Financially strapped

One Sunday afternoon, around 2 p.m., I was in Custodio's gallery talking to one of his relatives when a loud bang was heard coming from the second floor. I was surprised, but Custodio's relative seemed used to it. She told me Custodio probably fell down because he had not eaten since the night before.

She looked not a bit alarmed, as if that sort of thing happened regularly. I left to go to a restaurant and bought three orders of beef rice at P1 each. It was only then I realized that I, too, hadn't eaten yet.


"PANTALAN," which won in the 1955 AAP Annual


UNTITLED opus


"SEASCAPE"

I wasn't aware of Custodio's financial situation. In the 1950s, there were no real art collectors yet. In the Ermita area, buyers were mostly tourists or foreigners, and the art market was uncertain even if one painting would cost only P15-P20.

Modern painters, too, during that time, didn't become full-time painters. Most of them were teaching or were in advertising. When they reached middle age, and when their children had grown older, and as the artistic environment had improved, only then would they become professional painters.

Custodio would pay P130 monthly for the gallery space on A. Mabini Street. I realized he had no more fixed income when our classes ended. Due to the uncertainties of the art market, Custodio probably faced serious financial problems.

## Conservatives vs Moderns

The most outstanding conservative painters were G. Custodio and O. Navarro. However, the standard of other conservative painters was not commercial.

The term "Mabini-style" might have been only coined after the 1970s when PAG, CAG, G. Custodio, and the original conservative painters were no longer around. The term was more associated with the entry of commercial painters in the area.

In 1955, Custodio's oil painting "Pantalan" was entered in the 8th Annual Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) exhibit. It won second prize under the conservative painting division.

Then the Manila Rotary Club, celebrating its own golden anniversary, sponsored a painting competition. They did not limit the number of entries per painter and set no clear categories between conservative and modern painting.

The first prize went to Galo B. Ocampo for "Bayanihan." The second prize went to Manuel Rodriguez for "Liberty Wells." And the third prize went to Vicente Manansala for "Best-Served, Well-Gained."

All were modern paintings, forcing conservative painters to rise in protest. The awarding ceremonies, in which Sen. Claro M. Recto and Manila Rotary Club president Eugenio Puyat were present, were held Feb. 23, 4:30 p.m., at the Northern Motors Showroom on Isaac Peral St., Ermita, Manila.

A total of 19 conservative painters, led by Antonio Dumlao, Simon Saulog, Gabriel Custodio, Oscar Navarro, and Miguel Galvez, withdrew their 32 paintings and held their own open-air art exhibit outside the showroom.

After two days, Custodio asked me to join them. I obliged with one landscape painting. I treated it as an artistic activity, and not support for the move of the conservative painter. I was just an ordinary student at the time and could not do anything to help them.

In the 1960s, I spent most of my time in Zamboanga. I would occasionally go to Manila, but had lost contact with Custodio.

In 1976, Custodio moved to San Carlos Street, Ermita. I visited him several times and saw the nude sketching sessions he hosted for fellow painters.

In 1985, Custodio was able to buy a house on Iba Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City. When I visited him there for the first time, we stayed in his studio on the second floor and discussed many things.

After a few months, I bought oil color and brushes from Hong Kong and brought them to Custodio. I didn't expect that it would be the last time I would see him. He died on Aug. 20, 1993.

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# *Leading Malaysian artist in Manila*

By Constantino C. Tejero

THIS MONTH THE LOCAL ART world is graced with a special show by one of Malaysia's leading contemporary visual artists.

Ahmad Zakii Anwar is presenting his latest paintings and drawings in "Subliminal," six pieces in oil on canvas, four in oil on linen, and four in charcoal on paper, until Aug. 18 in The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

This is part of a two-country exhibition, as simultaneously being shown in Bangkok is another set of Anwar's related pieces in Numthong Gallery, one of the most progressive art galleries in Thailand.

In both drawing and painting, Anwar's work consists of hyperrealist images chiefly rendered in the surrealist mode of Magritte, as in color tonality, juxtaposition and atmospherics.

The drawings, "Standing Figure," are a series depicting a baldheaded male nude in both frontal and back views. Two pieces look like compositional studies in fine shading in gray on white—too solid to be mere drawings, if not for the figure's lower portion that fades into pencil scratching.

The other two have a huge beetle superimposed on the man's head, making him resemble those hybrid Egyptian deities. The rendering of surface is remarkably nuanced, particularly in the glint of the beetle's wings and the highlights on the human skin—one can see the pores of the skin and almost feel the brittle hardness of those wings.

The paintings, comprising five pairs, show various male nudes and faces rendered in either earth tone or achromatic monochrome. They are depicted in both frontal and back views, left and right profiles, closeup and medium shots, as central and marginal images, with open and closed eyes, and various symbolic elements thrown in.

In "Submit" 1, a naked man with outspread arms has his back turned to a latticed door, while in "Submit" 2 he is facing a full moon.

The face in "Insight" is set against a brown wall, while that in "Imagine" is against darkening clouds.

"Act" 1 has a closed-eyed face juxtaposed with a white conch, while "Act" 2 has an open-eyed face juxtaposed with a golden butterfly.

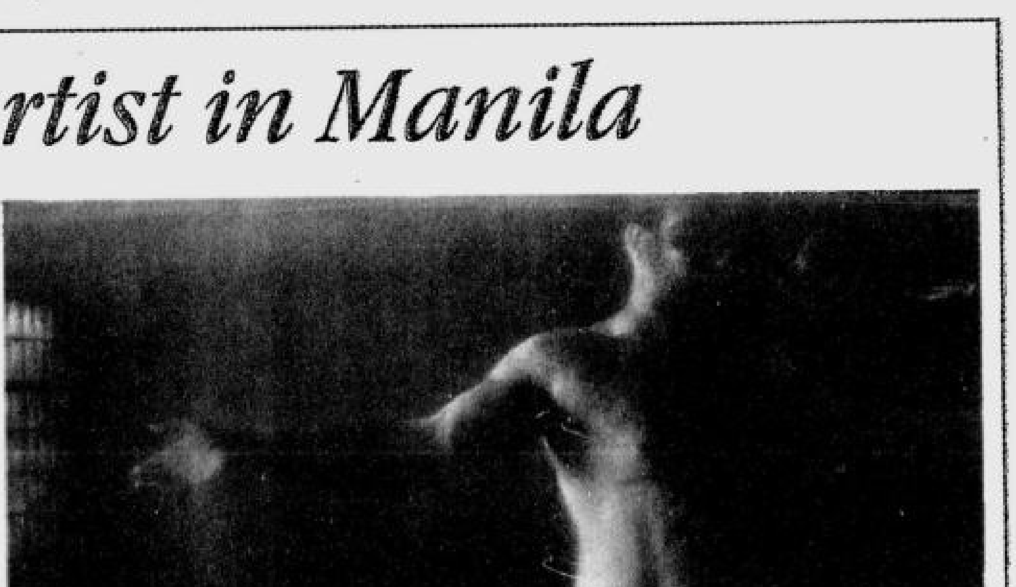
The only clothed figure here is the back-turned man in "Relook." In fact, the way it is rendered, with every fold and crease carefully limned and perfectly highlighted, it looks no more than a gray shirt floating on the margin of negative space—the most Magritte-like of all.

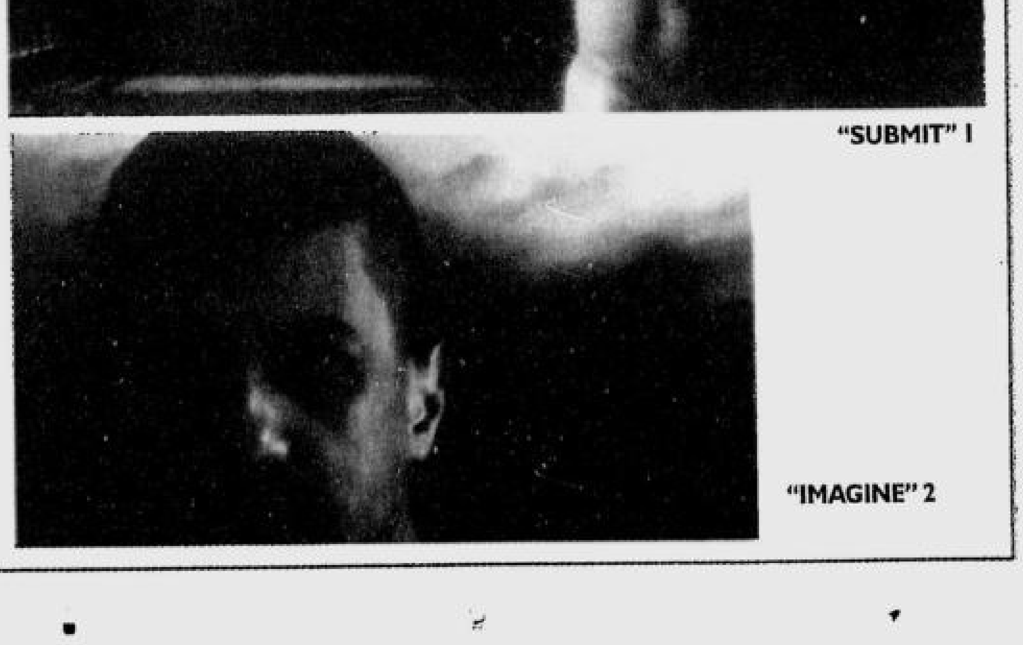
These are not so much subliminal images as shadowy figures in underexposed photographs. If there's anything subliminal about the compositions, it may be found in the theme, in the artist's incursion into that shadowy borderland between the real and the dreamworld, so often eroticized with nude forms and voluptuous symbols.

This interest in the subconscious is borne out by the artist's previous shows such as "Primordial Dream," "Interpreter of Desires," "Shadowland," "The Power of Dreaming," "Presence," "Distant Gamelan."

Based in the southern Malaysian state of Johor, Anwar received his formal training at the School of Art & Design of the Mara Institute of Technology.

It is such works by foreign artists like him brought into the country that should contribute in enriching the local art world.


"SUBMIT" 1


"IMAGINE" 2

# Sourcebook on Philippine ethnic patterns

From page C1

From his photographs, forms and shapes were literally traced into abstracted motifs and patterns for the ready use of designers.

This publication offers the reader, researcher and design professional two alternatives for inspiration. One is to focus on the complex traditional designs presented in black-and-white graphics, simplified abstracts of the original patterns. Another is to focus on faithful representations of the original patterns.

Each shape in the sourcebook is capable of triggering an idea in the creative process of the designer, ultimately leading to the design of a new product.

Since influencing the design of contemporary products of international standard is the primary purpose of this pattern book, the abstract blank-and-white forms are the perfect staring point for the designer who may most likely not want his vision to be cluttered by excessive details, ethnic coloration, or representational material.

Apart from the reduced simple shapes, a few of the original photographs of the objects from which the reduced shapes were derived are included in the book. They help contextualize the design motifs, make them readily identifiable as Filipino, and, in many instances, provide additional ethnic motifs as well.

One motif can inspire countless adaptations. With the creative mind, the possibilities from this collection of motifs are endless.

Motifs and patterns from this book are mere suggestions for designers to adapt into whatever product they desire—for textile designers to weave into yardage; fashion designers to create silhouettes or embellishment; production designers to adopt in their theater sets; and for architects, interior designers and landscape architects to incorporate into living spaces.

## Timeless

Style guides and pattern books are not new. They were widely published and used in 19th-century Europe and the United States, particularly popular as guides to craftspeople, homebuilders and architects.

There are a few other books that are informative reference material as well. Yhe albums from the Spanish colonial era of sketches and watercolors, prints, paintings and traditional examples of decorative arts and antiques found in museum collections are sources that Philippine designers normally do not make use of.

This publication follows the long tradition of pattern books. Certainly this is the first such book that is purely Philippine.

It took a long time for this material to see print, after being stored in Design Center Philippines vaults for 30 years.

Having been involved in the original documentation, I was aware of the benefit of the material to the few designers who were able to make use of the extensive research.

However, it does not matter that it took that long for the material to see print since the black-and-white abstractions of ethnic motifs are timeless. They should inspire another generation of designers for the next 30 years.

And if the publication inspires practitioners in the creative industries to research deeper, to discover the history, authenticity and anthropological relevance of each motif, then the resulting cultural grounding of these individuals is yet another resource that adds a deeper dimension in making them better practitioners of the cultural industries of the Philippines.

This is one of the few publications that champion Filipino excellence.

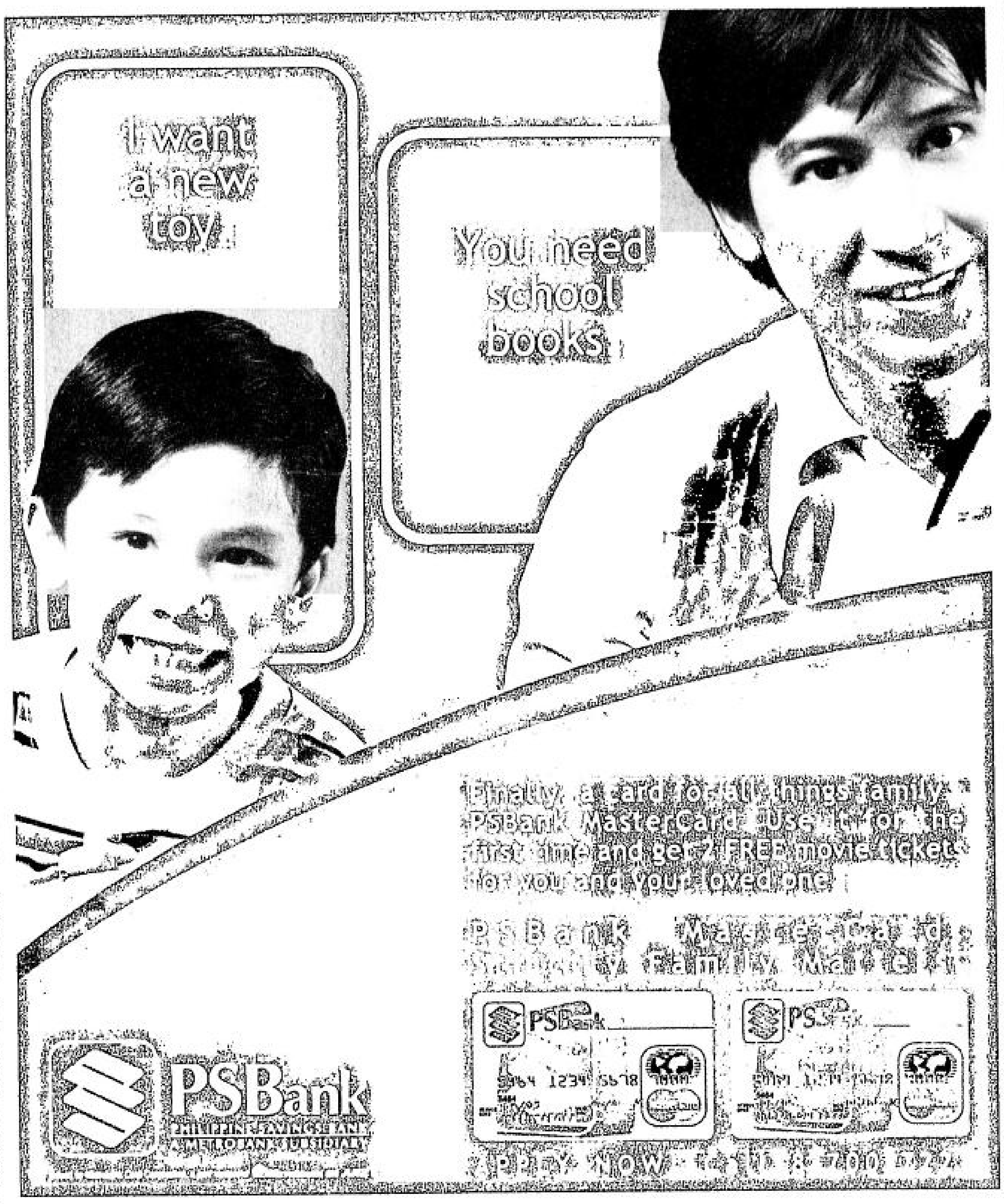
For sales information, call Design Center Philippines at 8321112 locals 110 and 126; or e-mail the Product Clinic at pdd-cp@dti.gov.ph

## Heritage auction

"Bid for Heritage," the annual art and design auction of the Heritage Conservation Society, is on Aug 20, 4 p.m., at The Loft, Rockwell Drive, Makati. The proceeds benefit HCS projects.

For tickets, call the HCS Secretariat at the Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, tel. 5212239, 5222497.

*Comments are welcome at pride.place@gmail.com*



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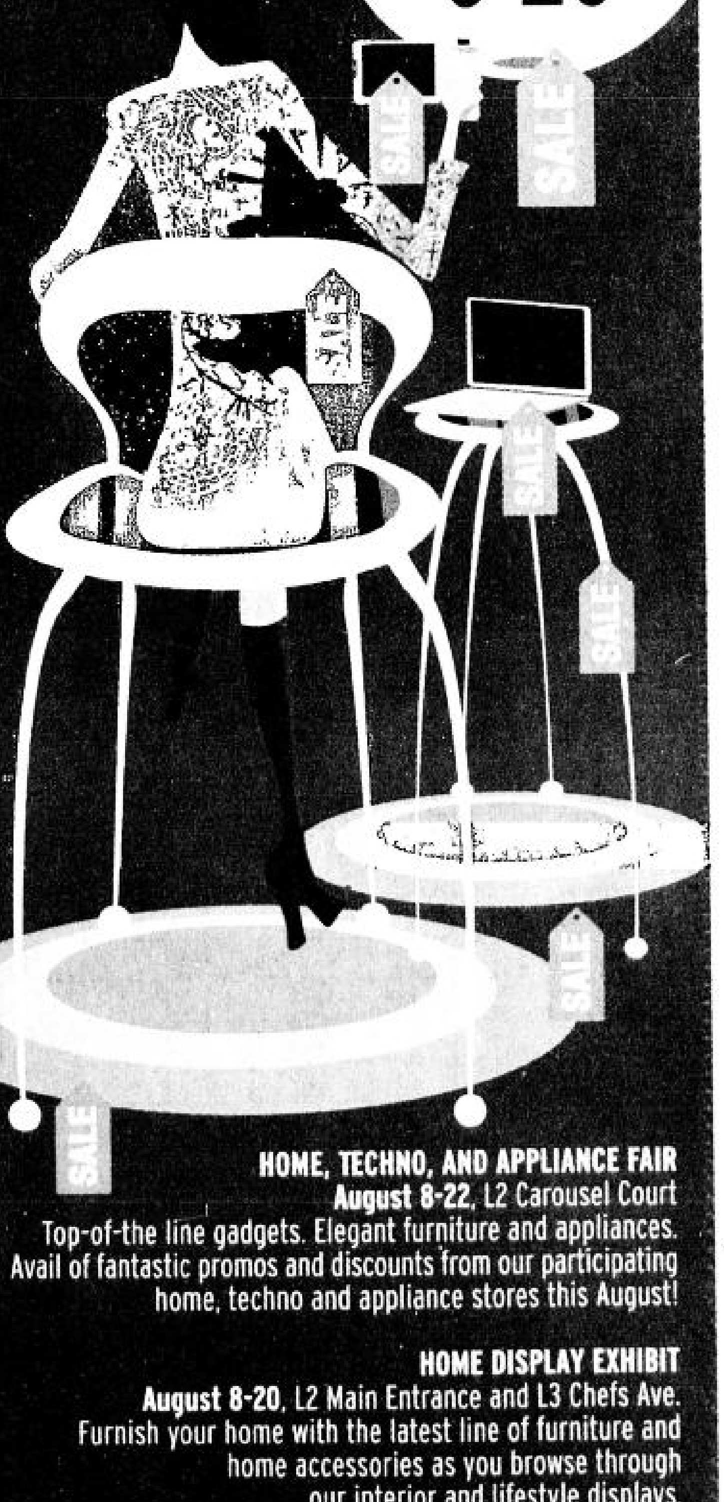

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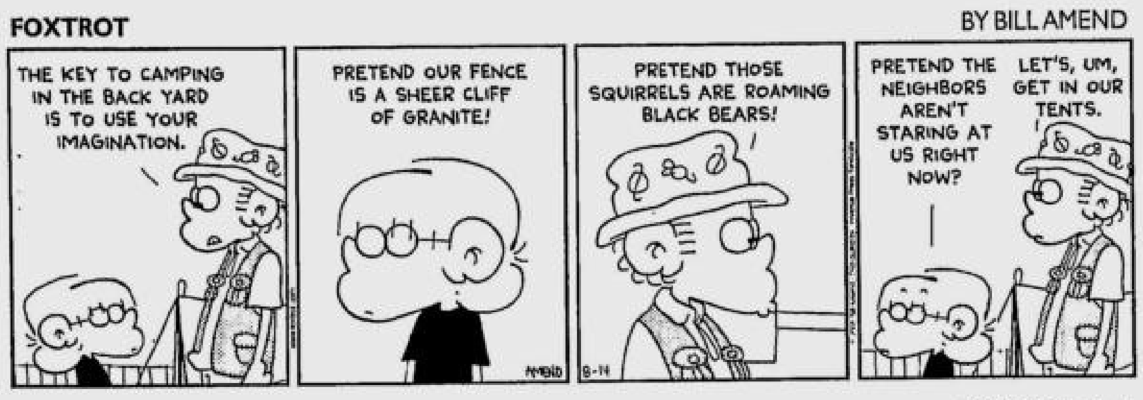
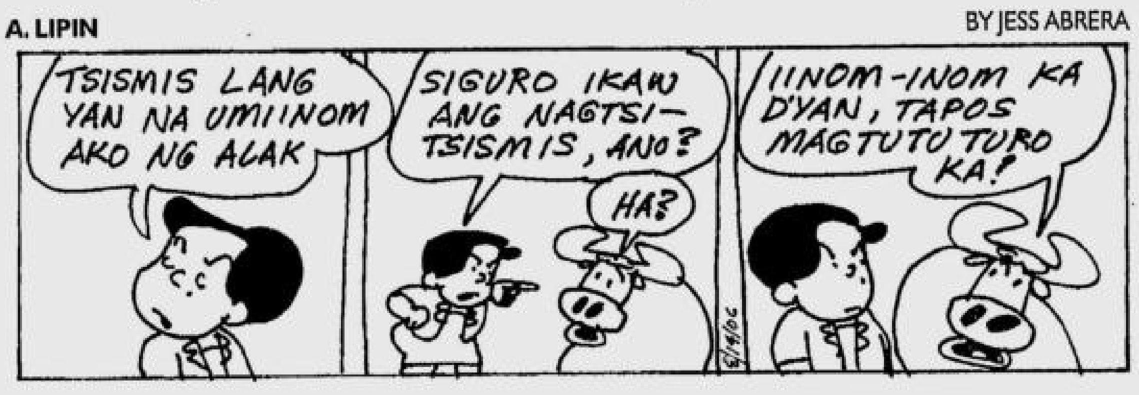
### FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THE KEY TO CAMPING IN THE BACK YARD IS TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION.
PRETEND OUR FENCE IS A SHEER CLIFF OF GRANITE!
PRETEND THOSE SQUIRRELS ARE ROAMING BLACK BEARS!
PRETEND THE NEIGHBORS AREN'T STARING AT US RIGHT NOW?
LET'S, UM, GET IN OUR TENTS.
AMEND 8-14

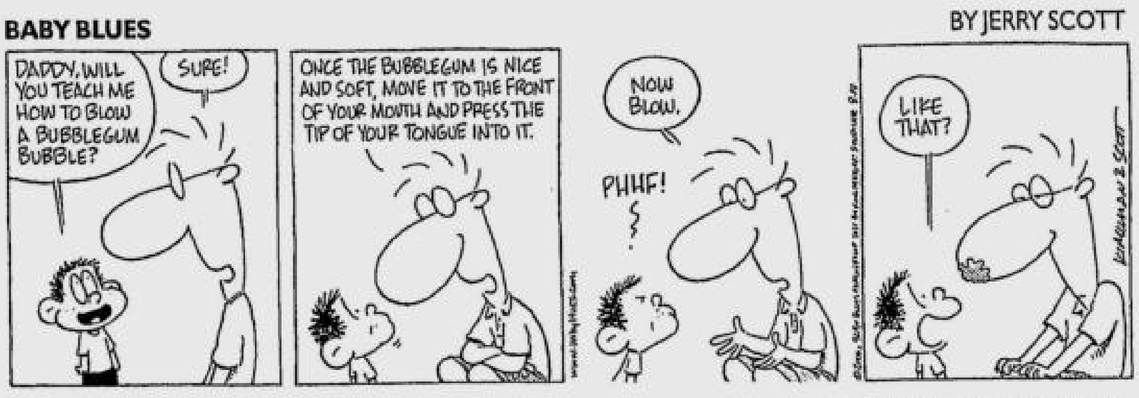
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TSISMIS LANG YAN NA UMIINOM AKO NG ALAK
SIGURO IKAW ANG NAGTSI-TSISMIS, ANO?
HA?
IINOM-INOM KA D'YAN, TAPOS MAGTUTUTURO KA!

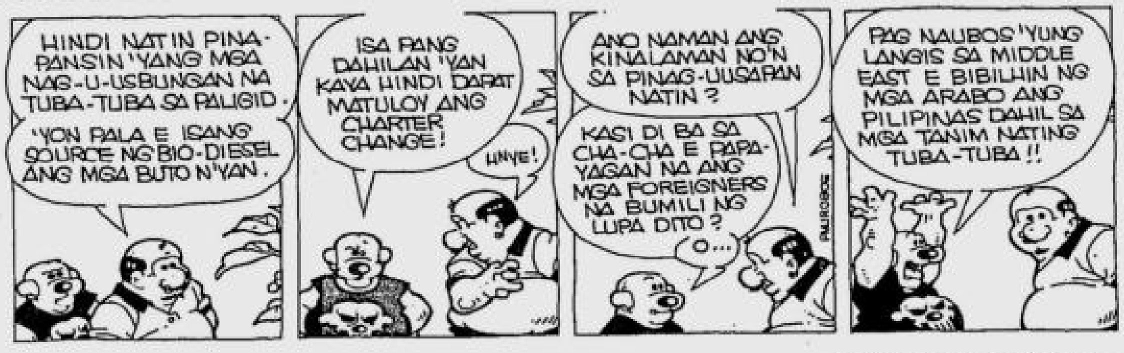
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY, WILL YOU TEACH ME HOW TO BLOW A BUBBLEGUM BUBBLE?
SURE!
ONCE THE BUBBLEGUM IS NICE AND SOFT, MOVE IT TO THE FRONT OF YOUR MOUTH AND PRESS THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE INTO IT.
NOW BLOW.
PHHF!
LIKE THAT?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

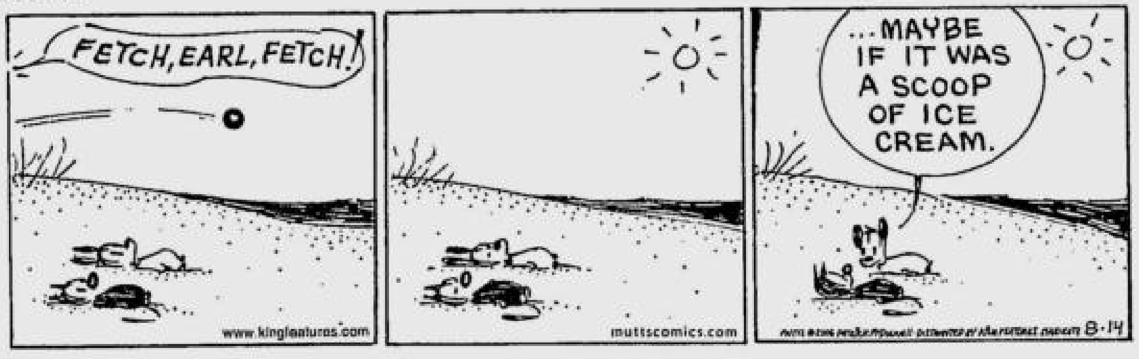
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI NATIN PINA-PANSIN 'YANG MGA NAG-U-USBUNGAN NA TUBA-TUBA SA PALIGID.
'YON PALA E ISANG SOURCE NG BIO-DIESEL ANG MGA BUTO N'YAN.
ISA PANG DAHILAN 'YAN KAYA HINDI DAPAT MATULOY ANG CHARTER CHANGE!
UNYE!
ANO NAMAN ANG KINALAMAN NO'N SA PINAG-UUSAPAN NATIN?
KASI DI BA SA CHA-CHA E PAPA-YAGAN NA ANG MGA FOREIGNERS NA BUMILI NG LUPA DITO?
O...
PAG NAUBOS 'YUNG LANGIS SA MIDDLE EAST E BIBILHIN NG MGA ARABO ANG PILIPINAS DAHIL SA MGA TANIM NATING TUBA-TUBA!!

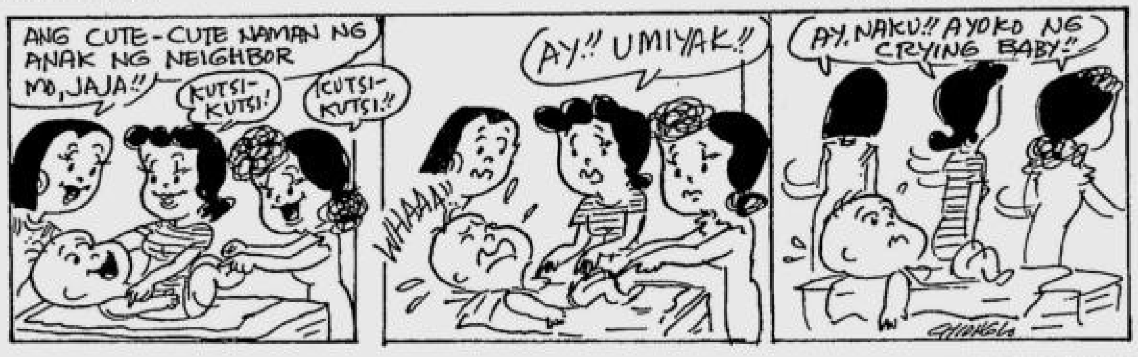
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FETCH, EARL, FETCH!
...MAYBE IF IT WAS A SCOOP OF ICE CREAM.
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
8-14

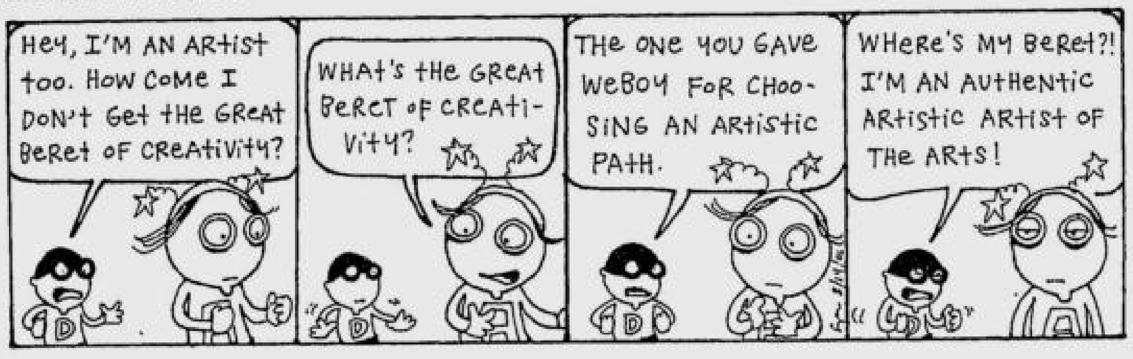
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG CUTE-CUTE NAMAN NG ANAK NG NEIGHBOR MO, JAJA!!
KUTSI-KUTSI!
KUTSI-KUTSI!!
AY!! UMIYAK!!
WHAAA!!
AY, NAKU!! AYOKO NG CRYING BABY!!
CHIONGLO

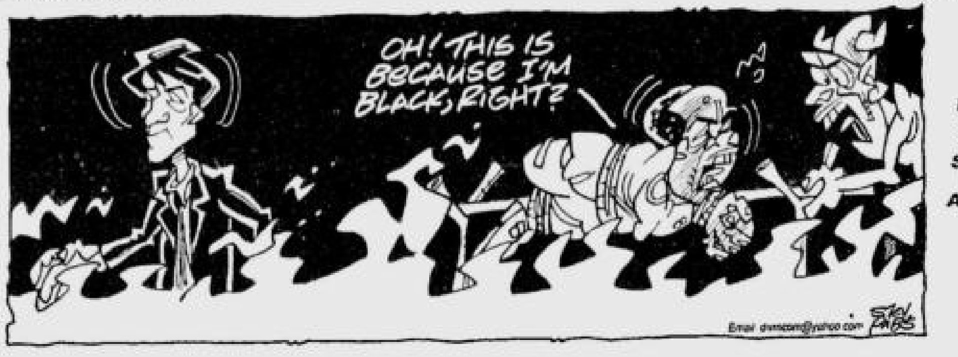
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, I'M AN ARtist too. How Come I Don't Get tHe GReat BeRet of CReativity?
WHAt's tHe GReat BeRet of CReativity?
The one you Gave WeBoy FoR Choosing AN ARtistic PAtH.
WHere's My BeRet?! I'M AN AuthENtic ARtistic ARtist of The ARts!

### DIVINE COMEDY

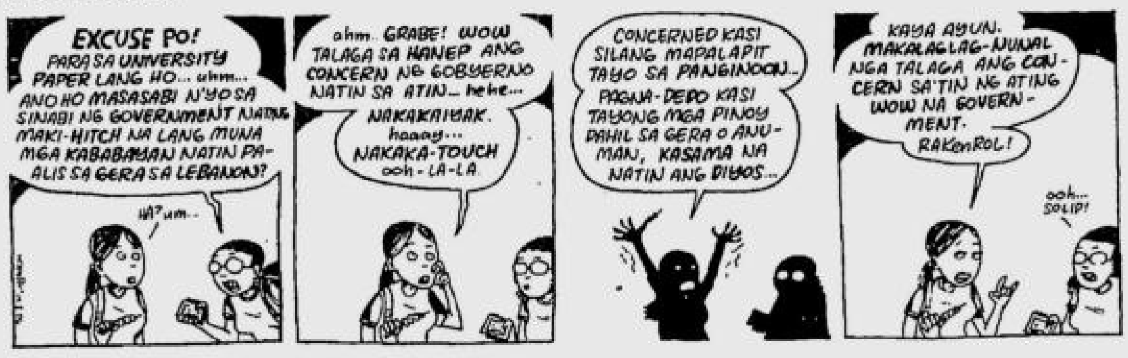
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


OH! THIS IS BECAUSE I'M BLACK, RIGHT?

**SA IKA-SAMPUNG PAGBISITA NI JOHN COSTANTINE SA IMPYERNO, NAKITA NYA ANG DIKTADOR NA SI IDI AMIN NA BINA-BARBECUE**

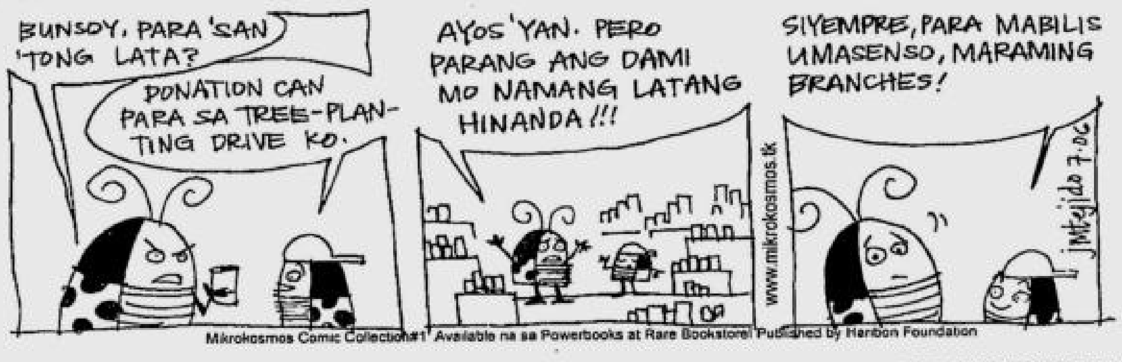
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


EXCUSE PO! PARA SA UNIVERSITY PAPER LANG HO... uhm... ANO HO MASASABI N'YO SA SINABI NG GOVERNMENT NATING MAKI-HITCH NA LANG MUNA MGA KABABAYAN NATIN PA-ALIS SA GERA SA LEBANON?
HA? um...
ahm. GRABE! WOW TALAGA SA HANEP ANG CONCERN NG GOBYERNO NATIN SA ATIN... hehe... NAKAKAIYAK. haaay... NAKAKA-TOUCH ooh-LA-LA.
CONCERNED KASI SILANG MAPALAPIT TAYO SA PANGINOON... PAGNA-DEDO KASI TAYONG MGA PINOY DAHIL SA GERA O ANU-MAN, KASAMA NA NATIN ANG DIYOS...
KAYA AYUN. MAKALAGLAG-NUNAL NGA TALAGA ANG CON-CERN SA'TIN NG ATING WOW NA GOVERN-MENT. RAKenROL!
ooh... SOLID!

### MIKROKOSMOS

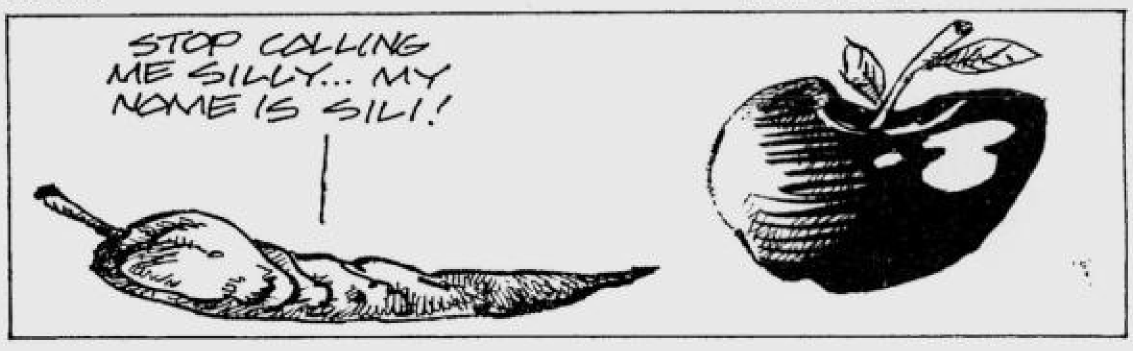
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, PARA 'SAN 'TONG LATA?
DONATION CAN PARA SA TREE-PLANTING DRIVE KO.
AYOS 'YAN. PERO PARANG ANG DAMI MO NAMANG LATANG HINANDA!!!
SIYEMPRE, PARA MABILIS UMASENSO, MARAMING BRANCHES!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 7.06

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Hanbon Foundation

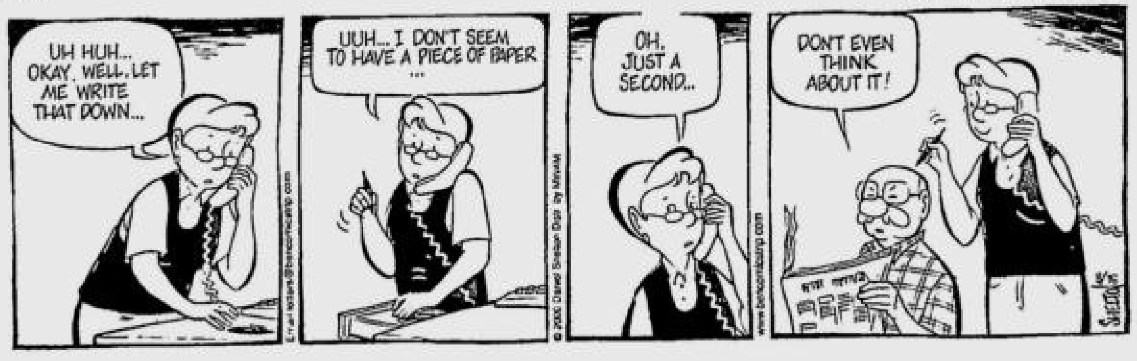
### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


STOP CALLING ME SILLY... MY NAME IS SILI!

### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


UH HUH... OKAY. WELL, LET ME WRITE THAT DOWN...
UUH... I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A PIECE OF PAPER ...
OH. JUST A SECOND...
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

## DAILY CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | ■ | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | ■ | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | | | | ■ | 15 | | | | | ■ | 16 | | | |
| 17 | | | | 18 | | | | | | ■ | 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | ■ | 21 | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | 22 | | | | |
| ■ | ■ | 23 | 24 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | |
| 28 | 29 | | | | | ■ | 30 | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| 31 | | | | ■ | ■ | 32 | | | | | ■ | 33 | 34 | 35 |
| 36 | | | | 37 | 38 | | ■ | 39 | | | 40 | | | |
| 41 | | | ■ | 42 | | | 43 | | ■ | ■ | 44 | | | |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | 45 | | | | ■ | 46 | 47 | | | | |
| 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | | | | | 52 | | | | | ■ | ■ |
| 53 | | | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | 54 | | | ■ | 55 | 56 | 57 |
| 58 | | | | ■ | 59 | 60 | 61 | | | | 62 | | | |
| 63 | | | | ■ | 64 | | | | | ■ | 65 | | | |
| 66 | | | | ■ | 67 | | | | | ■ | 68 | | | |

By Alison Donald
Hartsdale, NY

8/14/06

**ACROSS**

1 __ and crafts
5 Archipelago member
10 Byte or buck starter
14 Indiana city
15 Location of the Potala
16 Skater's jump
17 Ultraviolet shield
19 Go on a tirade
20 Ritzy rock
21 Opp. of NNE
22 Ghana's capital
23 Smoker's convenience
28 Yippee!
30 Costa __
31 Mrs. Charlie Chaplin
32 Proceed stealthily
33 Little devil
36 Library worker
39 Kitchen implement
41 Double curve
42 All grown up
44 Alan of "M*A*S*H"
45 Up for it
46 Achieve
48 Form of air travel
53 Without help
54 Broadcast
55 Homer Simpson's exclamation
58 Wall Street optimist
59 Breathing room?
63 Inactive
64 Part of NOW
65 Writer Harte
66 Part of SAT
67 Flies high
68 Pronto acronym

**DOWN**

1 In a tizzy
2 Demolish
3 Marching band members
4 Alternative wd.
5 That's for sure!
6 Kemp of the NBA
7 Deposit
8 Ethnic ending
9 Black goo
10 Parade
11 Precise
12 Artistic category
13 Site of rites
18 Como __ Usted?
22 Open-mouthed
24 Russian river
25 Make a blunder
26 Mil. rank
27 "Law and Order" co-star
28 Flexible conduit
29 Sounds of wonder
32 Toast tidbit
33 New York hockey team
34 Skirt length
35 Blueprint
37 Indistinct
38 Dutch cheese
40 Brussels-based defense org.
43 Poetic pasture
46 UFO pilots
47 Ripped
48 Equestrian outfit
49 Slip away from
50 Loafs about
51 Small harbor
52 Ale alternative
56 SSS designation
57 WWW letters
59 Cries of pain
60 Losing tic-tac-toe row
61 Old-time singer Sumac
62 TV guide abbr.

**Saturday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | P | E | N | D | E | R | S | ■ | S | T | O | P | I | T |
| C | O | N | O | I | D | A | L | ■ | P | A | V | A | N | E |
| U | L | T | I | M | A | T | A | ■ | A | M | E | N | D | S |
| F | E | E | S | ■ | M | E | T | A | C | A | R | P | U | S |
| F | A | R | E | D | ■ | L | E | V | E | L | ■ | I | C | E |
| E | X | I | L | E | S | ■ | R | O | P | E | ■ | P | E | R |
| D | E | C | E | N | T | ■ | S | I | R | ■ | L | E | D | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | T | U | B | ■ | D | O | P | E | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| P | R | O | S | ■ | D | E | E | ■ | B | R | I | D | E | S |
| L | E | N | ■ | S | H | A | N | ■ | E | O | C | E | N | E |
| A | V | E | ■ | P | O | U | T | S | ■ | D | E | L | F | T |
| T | E | A | P | A | R | T | I | E | S | ■ | S | O | O | T |
| E | R | R | O | R | S | ■ | C | R | E | A | T | U | R | E |
| A | T | T | L | E | E | ■ | E | V | A | N | E | S | C | E |
| U | S | H | E | R | S | ■ | R | E | T | I | R | E | E | S |

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8/14/06

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You are a student of life. You like to portray or reveal what you know about the human condition. You have a wonderful sense of humor. You need to find a partner who reflects your inner values. You're drawn to drama and theatrical presentations. With a willing audience, you're an excellent teacher. You will likely face a major choice this year. Choose wisely.

**Birthdate of:** Steve Martin, writer/actor; Halle Berry, actress; Lina Wertmuller, director.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Things might get testy about financial matters or possessions today. Don't bother reacting. It's just a passing dark cloud on your horizon. (It'll be gone in a few hours.)

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you more emotional and reactive. If you feel like you want to bite somebody's head off, don't. (Actually, that's not your style. You can be mellow.)

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You might feel nervous and irritable at some point today. Don't make a big deal about anything. This is a very brief influence. Act like an adult.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Refrain from criticizing friends or members of a group today. Similarly, don't react if others criticize you. It's no big deal. (Don't give in to your moods.)

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Don't go looking for a fight with bosses, parents, the police or any authority figure in your life. (Because this is what you're tempted to do today.) Let it blow over.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** This is a poor time for communication with others. You find yourself concerned with trivialities and picky details. (But others have no patience for this.)

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** You might find yourself preoccupied with the past today. Be patient with others. They might not understand exactly where you're coming from. (And you don't have to tell them.)

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Disagreements about shared responsibilities (or the obligations you have to someone else) are possible today. Don't get into it. It's not a good day to sort things out.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Your efforts to get better-organized are possibly disrupted by media events or people from other cultures or countries. Don't attempt to do too much. Just go with the flow.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Disagreements with children and romantic interests are very likely today. You know this will do no one any good. Therefore, restrain yourself. Bite thy lip.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Conversations with partners and family members tend to be critical and nitpicking today. Why do this to yourself and others? Steer yourself in another direction.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** The best way to use today's energy is to work alone and work hard at something. You'll feel productive. Don't expect cooperation from others. (Then you won't be disappointed.)

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | | 5 | 7 | 1 | | 6 | |
| | | | 4 | | 9 | | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | 2 | |
| 4 | 9 | | 1 | | 6 | | 7 | 5 |
| 2 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| 7 | 6 | | 3 | | 2 | | 4 | 1 |
| | 2 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | | | 7 | | 3 | | | |
| | 3 | | 2 | 6 | 5 | | 1 | |

Difficulty Level ★

8/14

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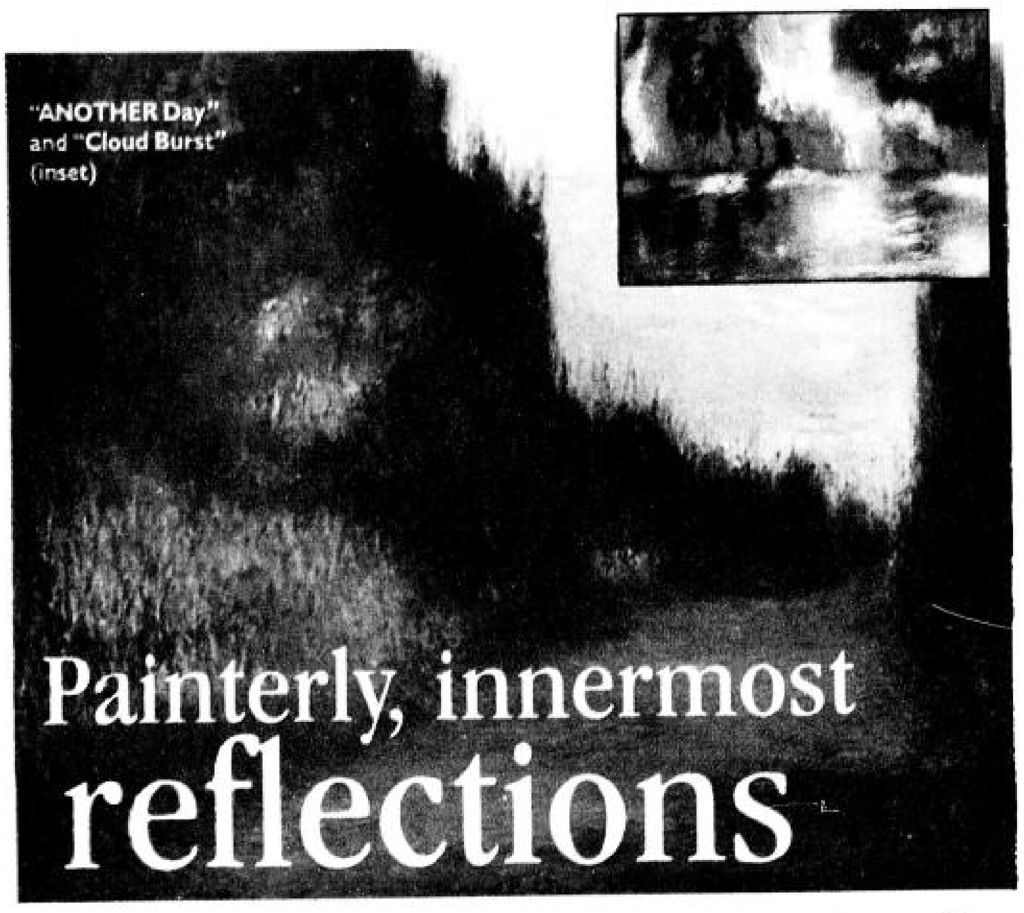
### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 5 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 2 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 1 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★



"ANOTHER Day" and "Cloud Burst" (inset)

# Painterly, innermost reflections

## Iza Caparas' expressionist landscapes reveal complex, almost inexpressible emotions

**By Gary C. Devilles**
*Contributor*

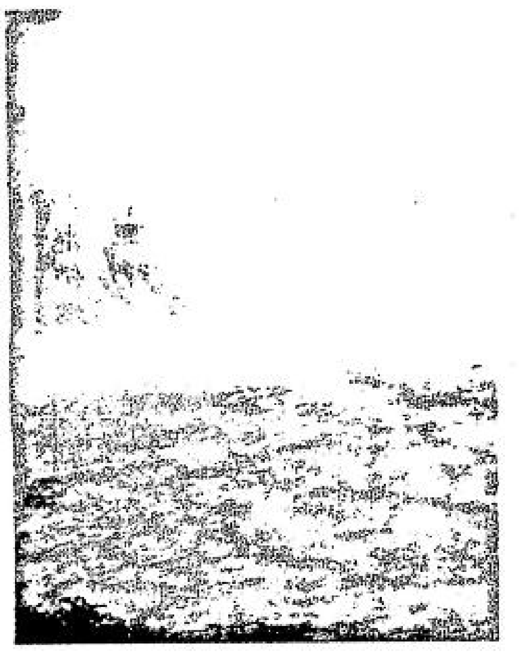
UNWEAVING THE RAINBOW ACCORDING to its prismatic colors may sound like an experiment in spectroscopy.

However, for Iza Caparas, who may not be exactly far from being a scientist, light is refracted by the prism of desire and intimate commune with nature as depicted by color implosions and interplays of hues in her solo exhibit at Gallery Nine (tel. 6877302) in Megamall until Aug. 22.

Iza may be a young artist, but she's not new to holding exhibits, having won various art competitions and on-the-spot painting contests.

Though a graphic artist by profession, Iza became a full-time painter when she realized her art reflected the inner world of resilience and reckoning. Most of her subjects are seascapes where she expresses deep communion with creation.

In "New Day," we see Iza's bold and broad brushstrokes of magnificent and fecund light, as though the day, poet Pablo Neruda would say, "wraps the world in mortal flame and fills it with the lives of fire."



"NEW Day"

For expressionists like Iza, rapture is everywhere and in the mundane. Whether we sit idly watching the sunrise or take an afternoon stroll in tree-lined streets, the day strangely radiates to our immense delight. Wisdom and beauty, we see, can only come from within.

### Stirrings

Caparas commits to painting the stirrings of her soul, similar to what can be heard from Beethoven's "Paean to Joy." This ecstasy is what we also feel in "Cloud Burst," as though we witness the marriage between the sea and the sky in a mesmeric outpouring of light and shadow, of the spectral blue and silhouette red, of the windswept horizon and the shimmering stream.

"Cloud Burst" reminds us of Dionysian revelry, which, according to Nietzsche, is much more archaic, unconscious, and free. Hence, "New Day" and "Cloud Burst" are celebrations of the spiritual merging with the secular, of the past reuniting with the present, and of a community unbounded by dimensions and perspectives of time and place.

However, we cannot fully grasp the revelry in "New Day" and "Cloud Burst" without understanding as well the cold serenity in "Another Day" where azure haze contours what could have been a road or a river and a sky before dark hours deepen.

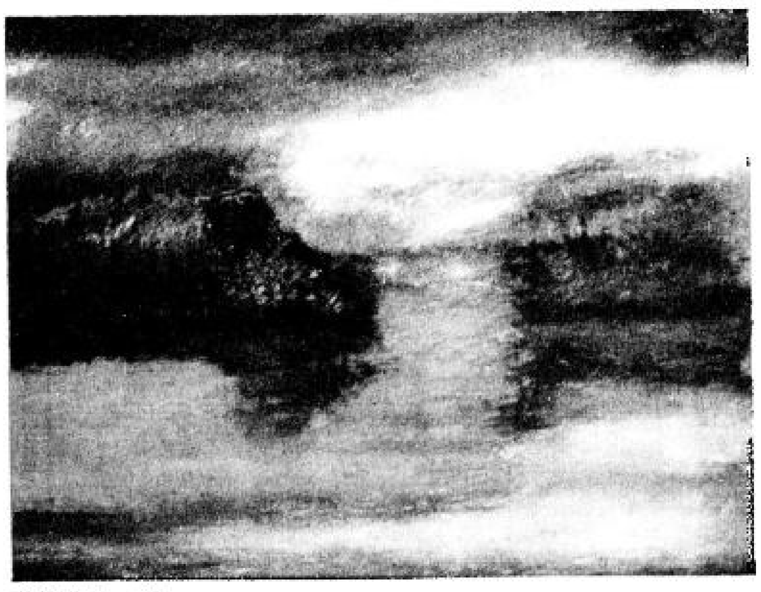
"Another Day" is like a dream that has vanished among the trees lining that road or the shore and in the night sky looming in the horizon. We cannot help but feel this dream as though we were claiming a respite from the inanity and ennui of existence.

Iza reminds us that our life is caught between extreme joy and pain and, like Prometheus who is forever condemned to suffer but gifted with the will to survive, "Another Day" promises us that we shall endure and prevail.

Thus, in "Sun Burst" we see also what poet Rainer Maria Rilke calls "the deep innerness of all things," where the sun explodes to night sky as dark embraces all things, all shapes, all colors and all become one.

Iza tells us that this "deep innerness" of things is also inside us and we are part of that great power that works ever more lightly in ways that escape our senses.

Caparas may not exactly be holding a mirror for us to reflect upon, but her paintings and reflections are things we carry inside, and ultimately all, including colors and even rainbows, issue from them.



"SUN Burst"

# 2006 Maningning Miclat Art Award now open

THE MANINGNING MICLAT ART COMPETITION 2006 is now accepting entries.

Any young artist aged 28 or younger may join the open art competition which will give an award of P28,000.00 and a Ramon Orlina glass-sculpture trophy to the grand winner.

There will also be a People's Choice award which will be given to a painting which gets the most number of votes during the exhibit of the short-listed entries on Sept. 25-27, at the Liongoren Gallery, 111 New York St., Cubao, Quezon City.

Submission of entries is on Sept. 21-22. Visitors can drop by the Liongoren Gallery to cast their votes for the People's Choice award. Awarding of the winners will be on Sept. 29. Exhibit of the short-listed entries will be held Sept. 25-Oct. 6.

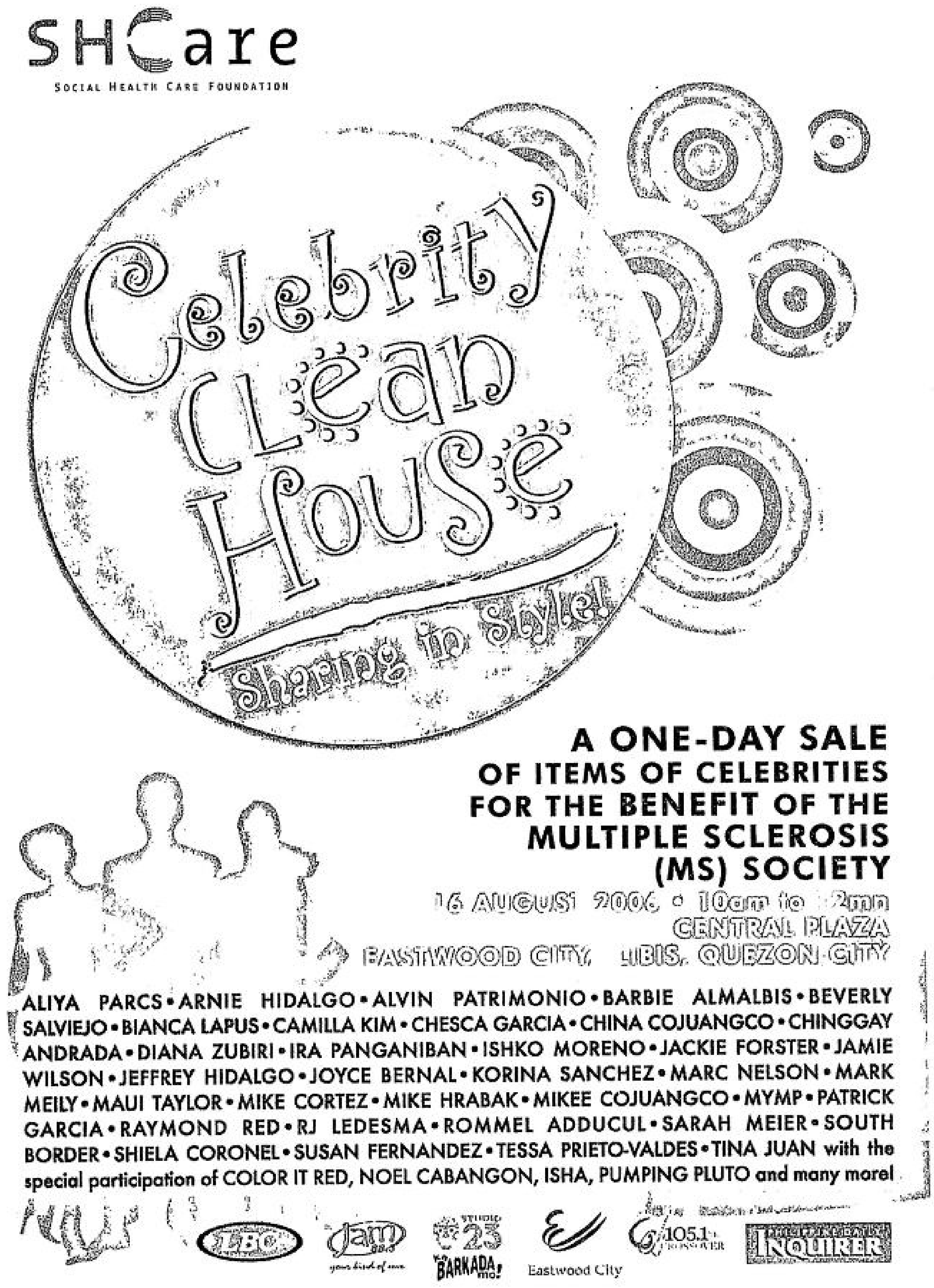
The entries may be done in oil, watercolor, pen and ink, acrylic, brush and ink, or mixed media in Western or Oriental style. Three-dimensional works are allowed, provided the final product is wall-bound. No specific theme is required.

Entries must be original and executed in 2004-2006. They must be framed with the minimum size of 45 cm x 60 cm and maximum size of 120 cm x 180 cm or equivalent area without the frame.

The complete rules of the contest are at www.maningning.com.

Miclat was a 1992 Art Association of the Philippines Grand Prize winner for nonrepresentational painting with "Trouble in Paradise." She was recognized during the International Women's Year held in Beijing as one of the world's top-rated 39 women poets in Chinese, having been included in an anthology published in China in 1995.

For more information on the 2006 Maningning Miclat Art Competition, e-mail maningningfoundation@gmail.com and acmiclat2004@yahoo.com, or call Liongoren Gallery at 9124319.



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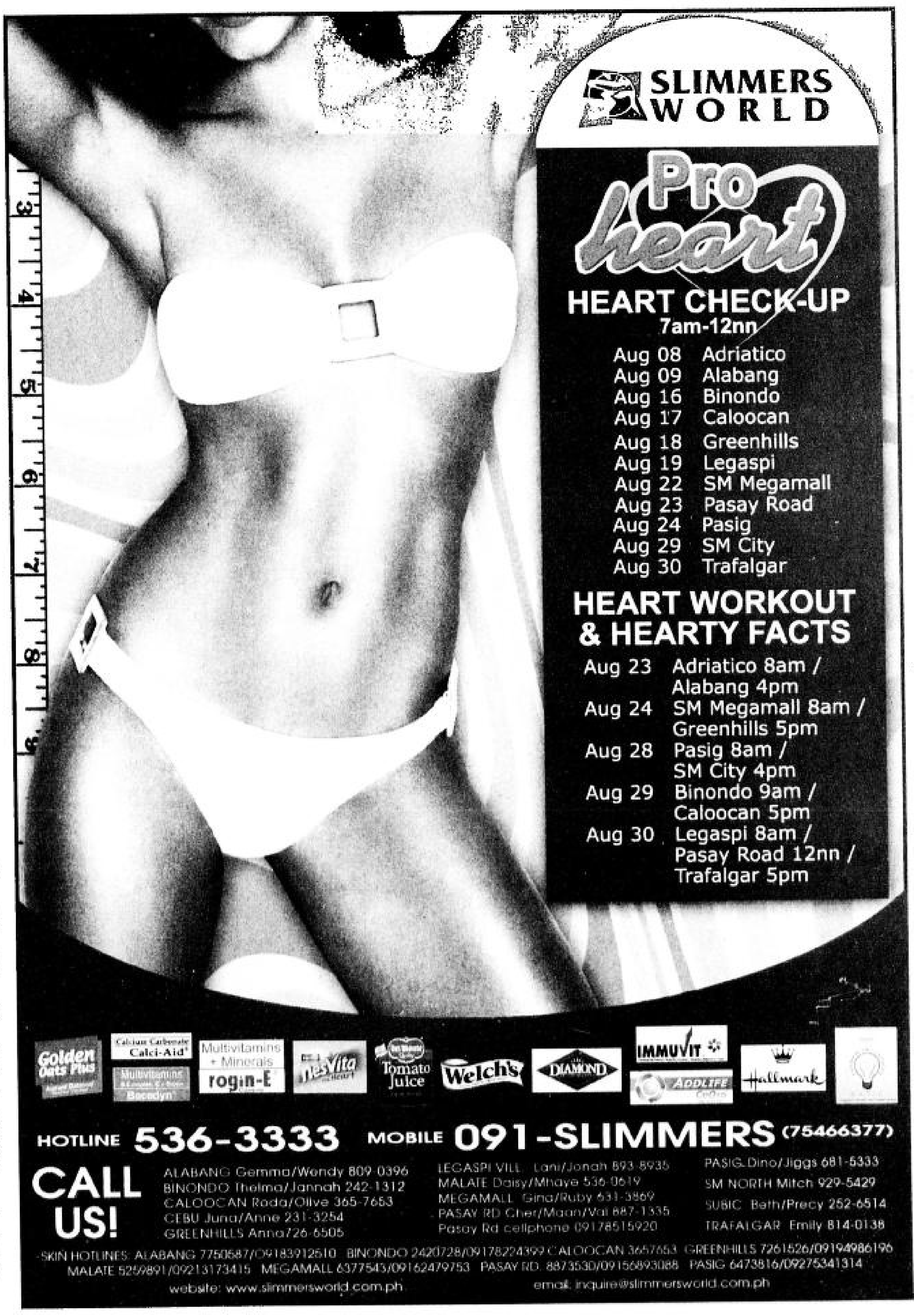

SLIMMERS WORLD

Pro heart

HEART CHECK-UP
7am-12nn
Aug 08 Adriatico
Aug 09 Alabang
Aug 16 Binondo
Aug 17 Caloocan
Aug 18 Greenhills
Aug 19 Legaspi
Aug 22 SM Megamall
Aug 23 Pasay Road
Aug 24 Pasig
Aug 29 SM City
Aug 30 Trafalgar

HEART WORKOUT & HEARTY FACTS
Aug 23 Adriatico 8am / Alabang 4pm
Aug 24 SM Megamall 8am / Greenhills 5pm
Aug 28 Pasig 8am / SM City 4pm
Aug 29 Binondo 9am / Caloocan 5pm
Aug 30 Legaspi 8am / Pasay Road 12nn / Trafalgar 5pm

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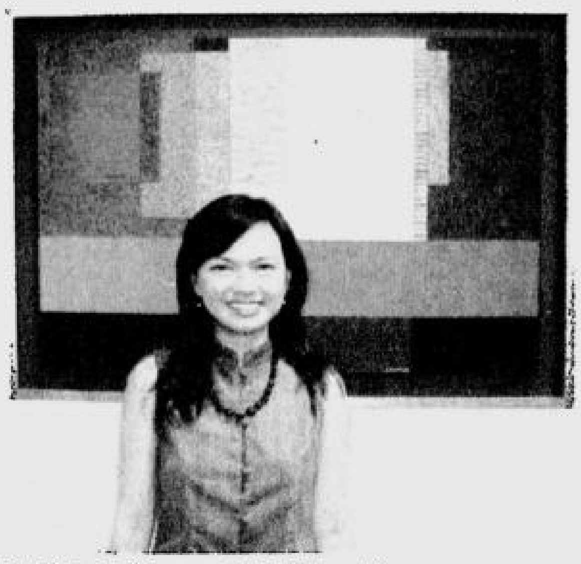


**THE ARTIST** with "Journey to Fulfillment"

# Karina Baluyut's 'Journeys'

KARINA BALUYUT'S "JOURNEYS" will run on Aug. 19-Sept. 2, at Galerie Joaquin-Main.

A board topnotcher in architecture, Baluyut has taken the artist's brush on a full-time basis and undertaken journeys of ancient Asian cities and capitals such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Ayutthaya and Bangkok in Thailand, Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and the ancient Portugese colony of Macau.

In Cambodia, she visited the ancient monuments in and around Angkor Wat. "I saw over 300 of them" she recalls. "To me, they were the most beautiful, most preserved Asian architectural monuments I have ever seen."

The artist says her personal favorite is Bayon where one can visually experience 42 heads of the Buddha all of them smiling and with closed eyes.

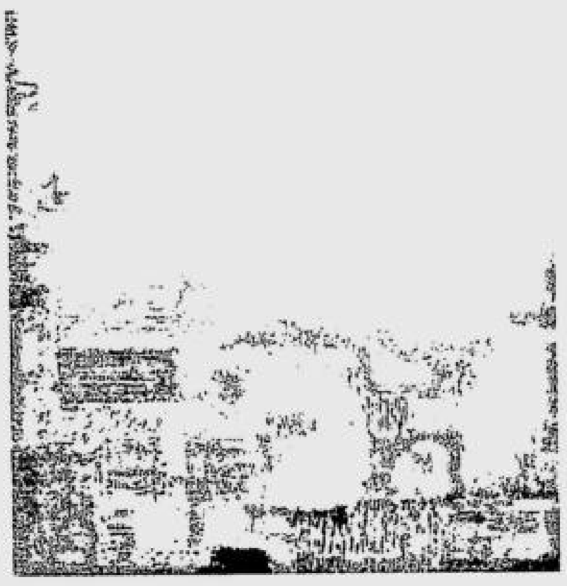
"Each smile is different. Each face is different. Immediately at Bayon, one feels serenity. Being in that place, you will fall in love with the world, with nature, with the air around us."

"Journeys" is an amalgam of the artist's experience. "The emotions that I felt as I visited these sacred and ancient places are what went into my paintings." "They are products of my happiness and my passion."

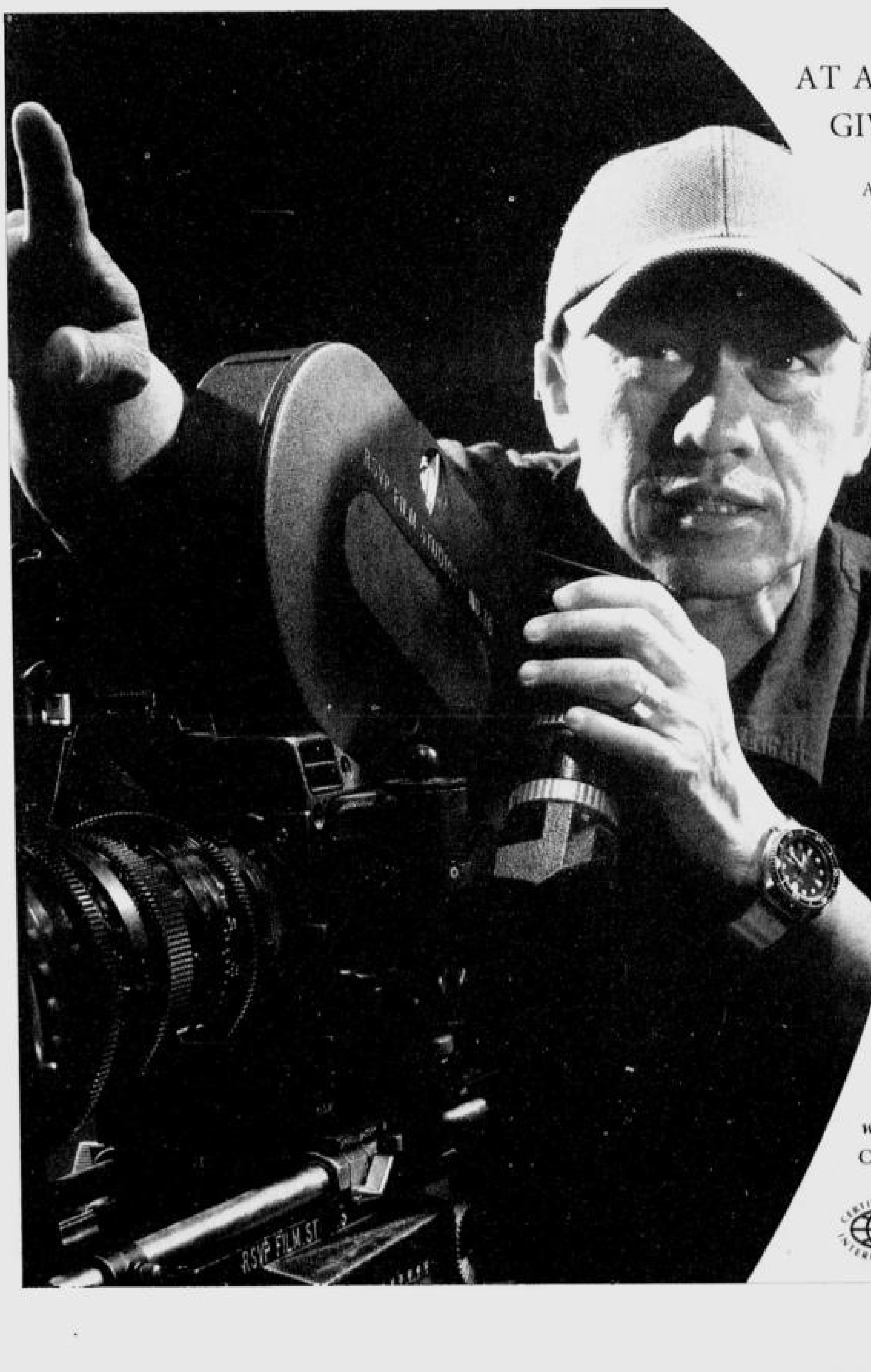
One of the original members of the Guevarra Group of Artists, Baluyut is influenced by Paul Klee, Mark Rothko and other abstract artists.

Her works are products of her own physical, emotional and psychological journeys.

Galerie Joaquin Main is at 371 P. Guevarra St. cor. Montessori Lane, Addition Hills, San Juan. Call 7239253 or 7239418. E-mail galerie_joaquin2003@yahoo.com or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com



"ANKOR Sunrise"



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After receiving the triple certification from Mr. Renato V. Navarette, Managing Director of Certification International Philippines, Dr. Felipe I. Tolentino, M.D., President & Medical Director of Asian Eye Institute says, "This certification reinforces AEI's commitment to high levels of quality, service management, and health service delivery."

Dr. Juan Ma. Pablo Nanagas, M.D., M.P.H., Administrator & Assistant Medical Director of AEI, meanwhile assures customers that the quality service they are now getting will only get better.

The triple certification recognizes the seamless, and exceptional, delivery of service through AEI's processes that are integrated and embedded in the operations of the entire organization. And to further improve its services, AEI has launched two new initiatives: the Six Sigma and Investing in People. These will complement the clinic's triple certification in excellent health care service delivery.

Dr. Tolentino also reminded all AEI workers, from the janitors up to the managers, that the "patient is "king." He says, "The patient is our ultimate boss. Serving our patients well is the only reason for our existence." As a final point, he adds, "There is a beautiful word in the Filipino language called "pagmamalasakit". Pagmamalasakit to me means the person cares about the workplace, about his or her co-workers, about the interest and welfare of his or her workplace, and about the people entering that workplace. Those who have the spirit of "pagmamalasakit" are sure winners in "life". ADVT.

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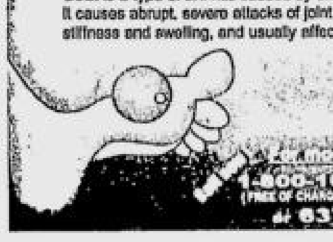

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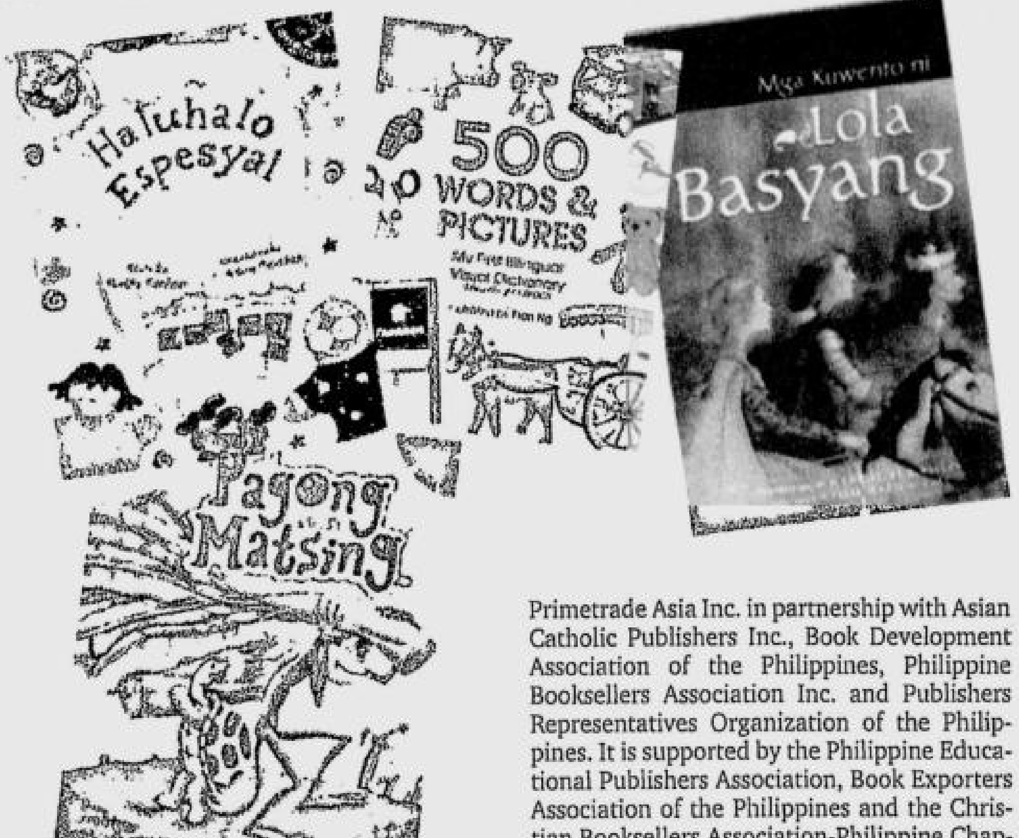
# New children's books



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KIDS AND KIDS AT HEART CAN FIND THE latest titles in local children's books at the 27th Manila International Book Fair (MIBF), the country's chief event for the book business. The MIBF celebrates the written word at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. and Roxas Blvd., Aug. 30-Sept. 3.

Adarna Books marks its 26th anniversary with six new titles: "The Cat Painter" (story by Becky Bravo, illustrations by Mark Salvatus III), "The Moon is my Friend" (story by Chie Acosta, illustrations by Mela Advincula), "Diego and Marie" (story and illustrations by Robert Magnuson), "Dinosaur Pop-up Activity Book B" (text and illustrations by Jomike Tejido), "Haluhalo Espesyal" (story by Yvette Ferreol, illustrations by Jill Arwen Posadas), and "Si Pagong at si Matsing" (retelling by Danilo Consomido, new illustrations by Hubert Fucio). Adarna Books will be available at discounted prizes for the duration of the fair.

Tahanan Books for Young Readers is launching "Barefoot in the Fire" by Barbara Ann Gamboa Lewis (pictures by Barbara Pollak); "Mga Kuwento ni Lola Basyang" by Severino Reyes, a 12-story anthology of adventures edited by acclaimed Lola Basyang specialist Christine Bellen and illustrated by award-winning artist Felix Mago Miguel; "The Tale of Lady Cabbage" by Serene Wee (translated by Augie Rivera and illustrated by Conrad Raquel); "500 Words and Pictures: My First Bilingual Visual Dictionary" (words and pictures by Fran Ng); and "The Night Monkeys: More Palanca Prizewinners for Children" by Cyan Abad-Jugo, Luis Katigbak, Raissa Rivera, Natasha Vizcarra, Yvette Tan, Honoel Ibardolaza, Lakambini Sitoy, Nikki Alfar, Herb Fondevilla, Celeste Flores, and illustrated by Joel Chua, Brian Vallesteros, Marcus Nada, Beth Parrocha Doctolero, Conrad Raquel, Clara Gallardo, Pepper Roxas, and Fondevilla.

Also available from Tahanan is "Greek Myths (3 Books)" with such titles as "Odysseus and Cyclops," "The Trojan Horse," and "Melampus and the Snakes," retold by Peggy Manuel and illustrated by Rita Badilla.

"The Brothers Grimm: Long Ago and Far Away/The Brothers Grimm: Sa Dako Pa Roon" is another fairy-tale collection, retold in English by Fran Ng, retold in Filipino by Rene Villanueva, and illustrated by Arnel Mirasol.

The 27th Manila International Book Fair is organized by Primetrade Asia Inc. in partnership with Asian Catholic Publishers Inc., Book Development Association of the Philippines, Philippine Booksellers Association Inc. and Publishers Representatives Organization of the Philippines. It is supported by the Philippine Educational Publishers Association, Book Exporters Association of the Philippines and the Christian Booksellers Association-Philippine Chapter. Call 8900661 or 8960682, or e-mail bookfair@primetradeasia.com.

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# 'Joseph the Dreamer' at SM Megamall

TRUMPETS' production of "Joseph the Dreamer"

CHRISTIAN THEATER GROUP TRUMPETS IS restaging "Joseph the Dreamer" with thespians Franco Laurel and Alvin dela Peña alternating in the lead role on all weekends of September at SM Megamall Cinema 4.

Based on Cam Floria's cantata, "Dreamer: What Really Happened to Joseph," writer/director Freddie Santos rewrites the script for this particular production with a younger audience in mind, and directs a relatively young cast.

"Joseph the Dreamer" has had phenomenal run more than 100 performances in the last 18 years. From simple black-and-white costumes and sets in the original run, the play has evolved into a spectacle of colorful costumes, stunning sets and engrossing musical arrangements by Mon Faustino. Its 10th anniversary was a casting coup with Gary Valenciano, sharing the lead role with Audie Gemora. The production has toured Manila, Davao, Bacolod, Iloilo and Pampanga.

For the September-slated production, Franco Laurel steps into the lead role of prisoner-turned-ruler Joseph. Laurel won an Aliw Award for Best Stage Actor in a Musical for another Trumpets production, "Honk! The Ugly Duckling" in 2003.

**FRANCO** Laurel

**ALVIN** de la Peña

De la Peña, new Trumpets president, shares the role of Joseph. He has been part of many theatrical productions including "Godspell," "Les Miserables," "Fiddler on the Roof," "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe," "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," and "Little Mermaid."

"Joseph the Dreamer" comes alive onstage at SM Megamall Cinema 4 on Sept. 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, and 30 at 3 p.m.; and Sept. 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30 at 7 p.m. Call 6354478 or 6362842.

# Concert by young musicians

PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS scholar Sam Abadines leaves listeners spellbound with his flute, playing a wide range of musical styles. His talent will be on display at "Live to Play, Play to Live," a concert on Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Rockwell Tent.

"We discovered his gift two years ago," says Sam's father Obet, himself an accomplished saxophone player for the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO).

He takes half of the credit for honing Sam's musical skills. The other half, he says, goes to the Philippine Youth Symphonic Band (PYSB).

**ARIELLE** Enriquez, one of the lucky kids to be part of PYSB, plays the flute.

**ROMMEL** del Rosario plays the trumpet during their band practice.

"PYSB has exposed Sam to the best teaching methods, challenging musical pieces and to other talented musicians like him. The weekly rehearsal schedule has taught him discipline as well."

The PYSB Alumni, with the Young Musicians Development Organization, revived the PYSB after a 22-year hiatus. The PYSB participates in the annual National Youth Summer Camp, an intensive, month-long, live-in music course that includes classes on sight reading, musicianship, harmony, solo instrument and ensemble play in its curriculum.

Instructors from renowned music institutions such as the UP College of Music, UST Conservatory, Asian Institute for Liturgical Music, PPO, San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and Manila Philharmonic Orchestra mentor an auditioned group of participants aged 10-22 from across the country.

In 2004, 9-year-old Sam joined the camp. From being a camp participant, playing only two notes on his first season, Sam is now the band flute soloist.

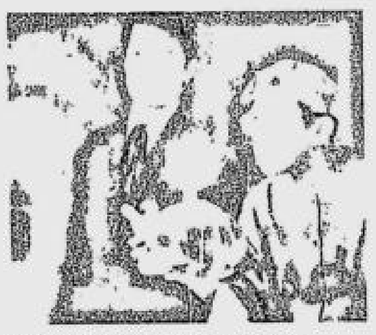
Come and hear Sam and other children play during the "Live to Play, Play to Live" fundraising concert. Visit www.ticketworld.com.ph or call 8919999. Or get your tickets at Ticketworld at all National Bookstore or Starbucks Power Plant, Rockwell.

# Gantimpala restages 'Kanser' (Noli Me Tangere)

GANTIMPALA THEATER Foundation (GTF), together with the National Park Development Committee (NPDC), celebrates its 29th season with its second production lineup, "Kanser" (Noli Me Tangere), a work that breathes life to the immortal literary characters of Dr. Jose Rizal's novel.

Penned by playwright Jomar Fleras, "Kanser" features the GTF Actors Company led by Miguel Castro (Crisostomo Ibarra), Meliza Reyes (Maria Clara), Kimberly Diaz (Sisa), Lowell Conales (Elias), Ces Aldaba (Padre Damaso), Dante Balois (Pilosopong Tasyo), Joel Molina (Padre Salvi), Lani Tapia (Doña Victorina), Mariedhell Flores (Doña Consolacion), Ruel Oda (Don Tiburcio), Dominer Corpuz Nantes (Kapitan Tiyago), John Rhoderey Dizon (Basilio), John Matthew Dizon (Crispin) and Joey de Guzman (Mang-aawit).

**LOWELL** Conales (Elias), Miguel Castro (Crisostomo Ibarra), Meliza Reyes (Maria Clara) and Joel Molina (Padre Salvi)



**CASTRO** and Dante Balois (Pilosopong Tasyo)

Theater critic Amadis Guerrero called it "Gantimpala's bestseller, enhanced by shadow-play techniques, arresting visuals and affecting performances."

Bringing back to life this "theater of the highest order" are Adriana Agcaoili (director), Andy Villareal (lights designer), Marianne Sedotes (set designer), Ruel Oda (choreographer), Norman Peñaflorida (production manager), Glenda Alday (stage manager) and Tony S. Espejo (GTF artistic director).

It will be staged on Aug. 20 (Concert at the Park Open-air Auditorium, Luneta, Manila); Aug. 25-27 and Sept. 1-2, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo, QC; and Sept. 8-9, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at SM Southmall, Las Piñas City.

Call 8995745 and 8963503.

# *Diet and nutrition in Mr. & Ms.*

MR. & MS., "THE SUPER-monthly of the body, mind and spirit," promotes the healthy lifestyle in its special August issue on food and nutrition.

Sumptuous recipes specially created by the best test kitchens in the land are featured. Tofu and Vegetable Stir Fry, Tuna Con Pinakbet, Fish a la King, Cereal and Carrot Pancakes, Fiesta Putanesca and other mouthwatering dishes are splashed all over the magazine.

"Like everything else in the universe, food is energy... Vegetables, herbs, meat and fish were once alive so as living things, they had accumulated so much energy, a big part of which is still contained within them," writes Jamal Ashley Abbas in an article.

If you're serious about dieting, use chopsticks. Rich in history and virtually an emblem of Asian cooking, chopticks may just help you curb the appetite.

If you feel guilty after biting into a luscious bar of chocolate, you will be happy to read Mr. & Ms.' feature on the delicious cocoa product debunking claims it is fattening and unhealthy.

A special feature on stewardship of food discusses everyone's responsibility to feed the hungry.

In his column, Jaime T. Licauco asks and answers the question: "Can an unborn child talk to her mother?"

Mariel N. Francisco's "A New Vision of Women's Wellness" shows how disease is not so much physical as it is mental and emotional.

The regular column on movie reviews talks about the controversial Palestinian film, "Paradise Now," which tells the lives of suicide bombers.

To continue Mr. & Ms.' series on divination, the August issue features "Message from the Runes." Runes date back to ancient Northern Europe and the Vikings; they are tools to divine the future.

Fun TV couple Marvin Agustin and Jolina Magdangal grace the cover and disclose their food and other preferences.

# Bookstore holds treat for bookworms

NATIONAL BOOK STORE IS now holding its annual Cut Price Book Sale until Sept 17.

Bookworms can feast on selected books from children's to young-adult books, from fiction to non-fiction, and a wide array of self-help books at up to 70-percent discount.

Also on sale are office and school supplies at up to 50-percent discount.

Visit the National Book Store booth at the 27th Manila International Book Fair from Aug. 30-Sept. 3 at the World Trade Center, corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue and Roxas Boulevard.

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# Taiwanese musicians, top pianist Cynthia Yumul play Rachmaninoff

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Conservatory of Music with the Manila Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Foundation and Equitable PCI Bank presents the UST Symphony Orchestra, with guest conductor Tseng Ying-An and trombonist Chiu Wei Lun from Taiwan, and pianist Cynthia Yumul on Aug. 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, cor. Dela Costa and Makati Avenues.

The event presents a unique trombone concerto by Leopold Mozart (father of the genius, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart); Handel's Messiah Overture; Beethoven's Symphony No. 1; Taiwanese pieces; and Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme by Paganini.

Playing the Rachmaninoff "tour de force" is three-time Namcya winner and UST piano faculty Cynthia Yumul, who is finishing her master's degree under professor Erlinda Fule at the UST Graduate School. She has played Liszt's Hungarian Fantasy and has been featured at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Filipino Artist Series. Call 7314022.

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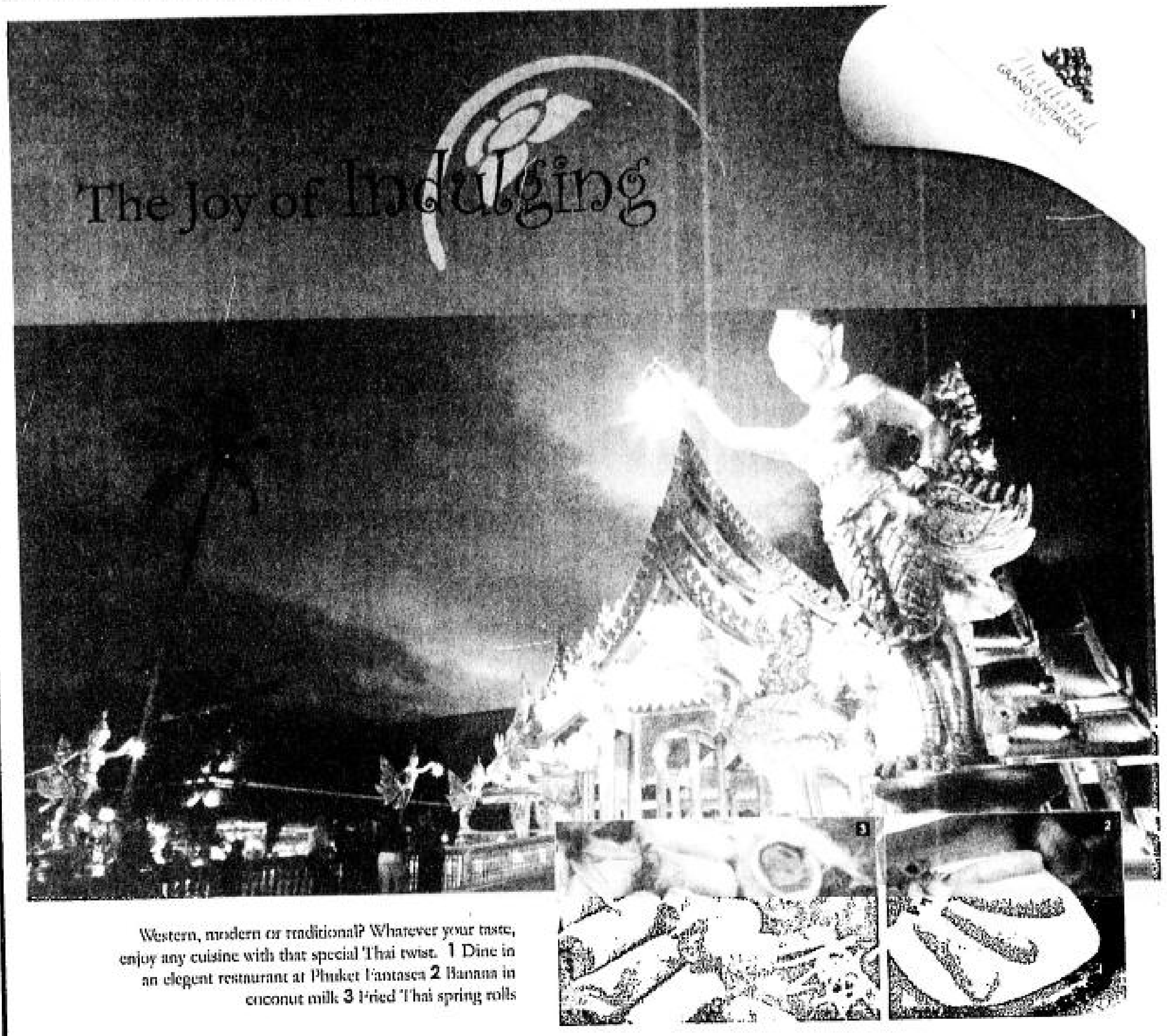

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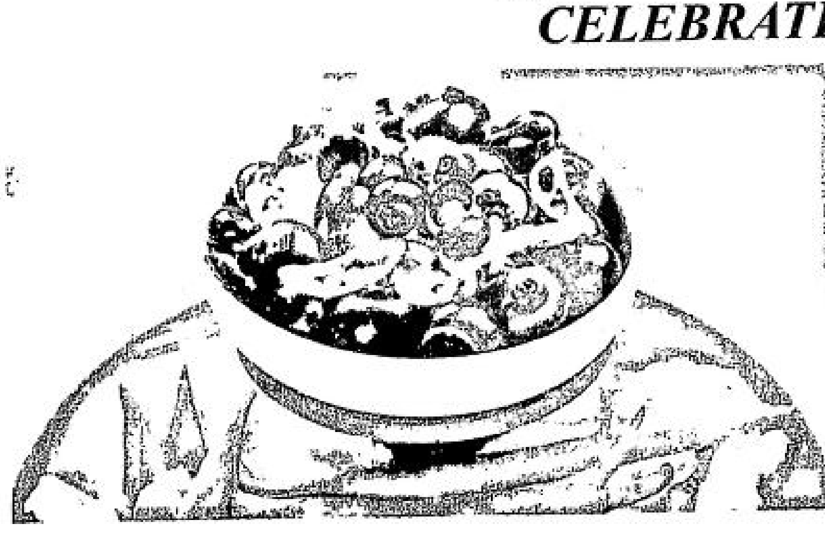

The Philippines is a country of many islands, many languages, and many cuisines. Every region is proud of their unique heritage, and this pride extends to their culinary specialties. Lechon may be our national dish, but it's deliciously different across the archipelago. The famous Lechon Bagnet of the Ilocanos is crispy pork belly, boiled then deep fried till golden brown, and served with a soy-vinegar dipping sauce. The incomparable Lechon Cebu is cooked the distinctive Cebuano way where the whole pig is basted and stuffed with aromatic spices, garlic and onions then charcoal roasted until the skin is crisp and the meat tender. Rizal wrote about Pinakbet in Noli Me Tangere but he didn't mention Pinakbet Samar, the Warays enjoy their Pinakbet a bit saltier with the vegetables half-cooked. Even the Bicolanos will be amazed by Kamayan's Barbeque Laing, with Yam leaves, shrimp and fish flakes, pork meat, and chili wrapped in yam leaves and simmered in coconut milk then broiled over charcoal. While the Ilonggos will give their thumbs up to our version of their beloved Inasal na Manok, chicken marinated in coconut vinegar and garlic charbroiled till golden orange with annatto then served with spicy sinamak vinegar. Kamayan's Lutuing Atin Festival celebrates each province's own beloved fare. From Appari to Jolo, explore the country's varied traditional recipes and new spins on native specialties. Buffet price is at P290. For inquiries and reservations call 532-3004 or 531-7292.

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METRO
New rules for beauty
20

# Piolo, Diether, John Lloyd and Sam are cover boys

IN THE AUGUST ISSUE OF METRO, MATINEE idols Piolo Pascual, Diether Ocampo, John Lloyd Cruz and Sam Milby answer the question behind every woman's mind: What makes men stay in a relationship? "Love," Piolo says.

Meanwhile, find out from a nutrition expert if there is such a thing as a perfect diet. The "magazine for the independent woman" rates the different kinds of diet in town and which ones actually work.

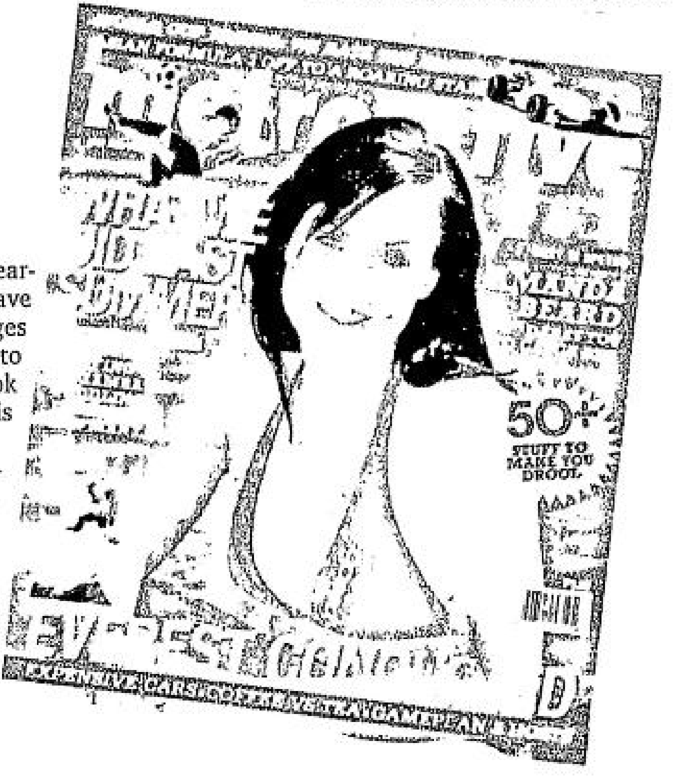
If you dream of becoming the next top model, check out the August issue as Metro Magazine launches its first Top Model Search.

Get a copy of the August Metro and get a chance to win a trip to Palawan for two.

Meanwhile, in the July-September issue of Metro hiM, learn the art of looking taller by wearing the right clothes. Interested in wearing the latest in designer wear but don't have the budget for it? Our do-it-yourself pages show you where to shop and what items to buy to capture the Spring/Summer '06 look of menswear labels like D&G, Perry Ellis and Etro.

MetroActive looks at the growing popularity of the Asian Formula 1 with features on the country's top drivers led by Tyson Sy and Dado Peña; and profiles the new hosts of the Studio 23's "Game Plan."

Finally, MetroActive also lists down everything you need for trail running and extreme board sports, as well as the latest technique for swimmers—the monofin.



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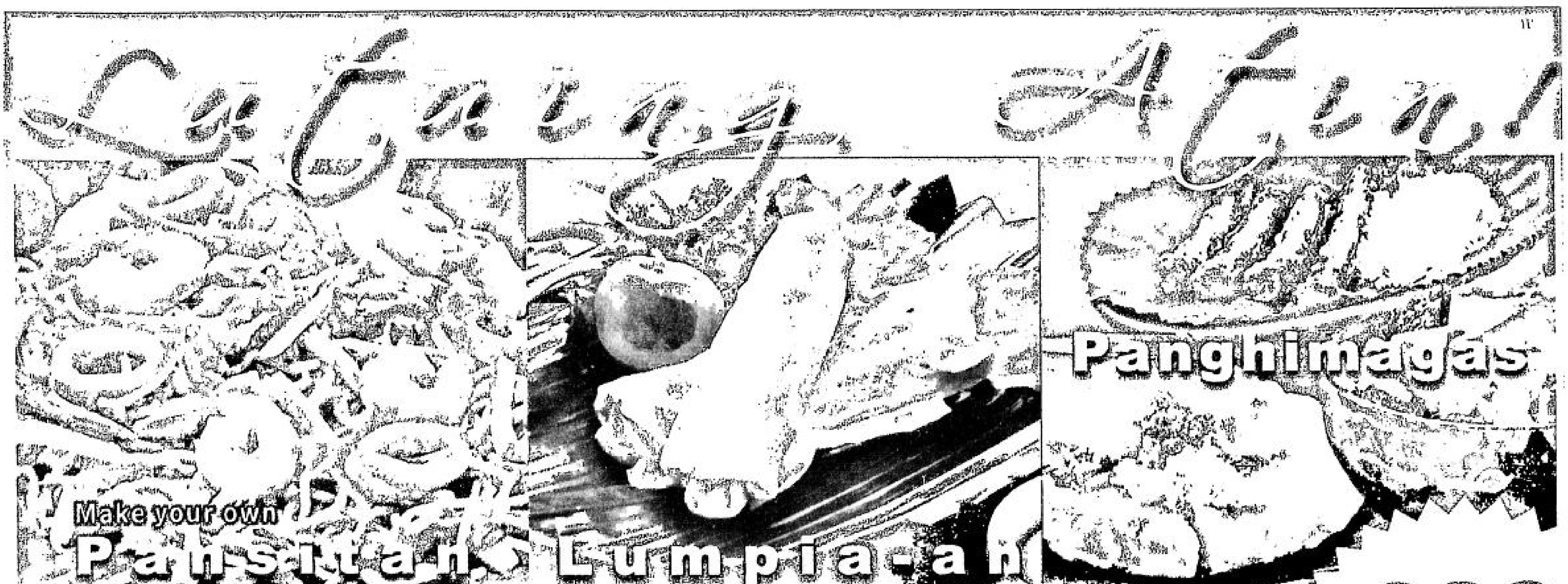

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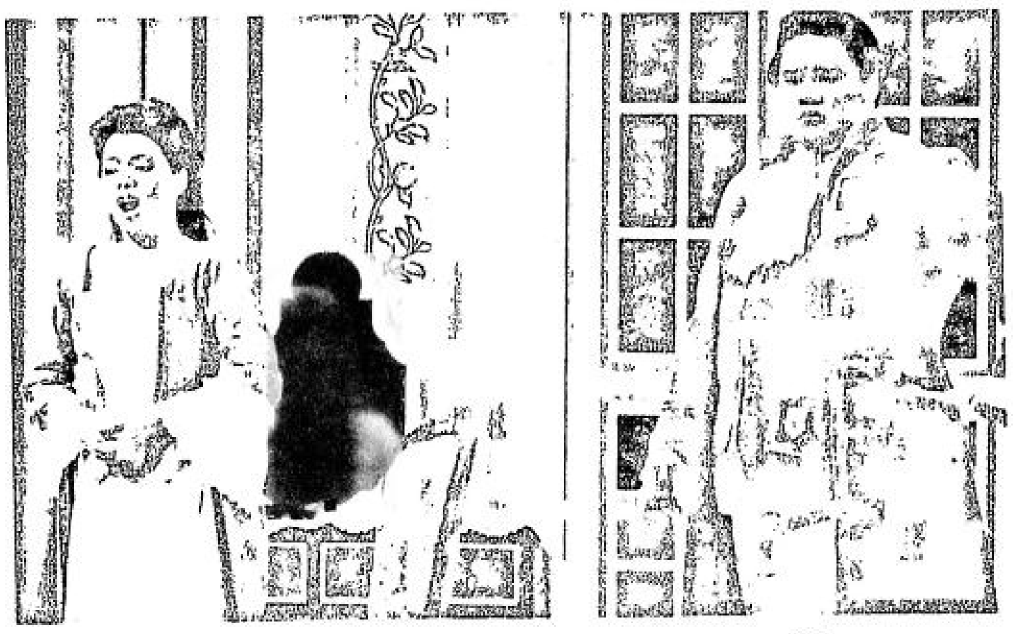
**LEMUEL de la Cruz**

# Filipino singers shine in Singapore



**ANDREW** Fernando with Rachelle Gerodias

**By Pablo A. Tariman**
*Contributor*

THREE PERFORMANCES OF Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" mounted by Singapore Lyric Opera at Singapore's Esplanade Theater recently featured landmark performances of Filipino artists in the leading roles.

Soprano Rachelle Gerodias played the role of Susanna. Tenor Lemuel de la Cruz played Don Basilio and Curzio. Baritone Andrew Fernando sang the role of Count Almaviva. Also on the spotlight was the Philippine Chamber Orchestra conducted by Lim Yau.

"The Filipino singers and musicians did us proud," said Irene Marcos Araneta, who watched the last performance in Singapore.

The opera's opening night was a big success and the theater was 100-percent full with all the Filipino singers in top shape vocally.

"We got lots of laughs in the right places," said Fernando. "This is actually my first Count Almaviva and I am so thrilled."

Fernando, the first Filipino first-prize winner of the prestigious Loren Zachary National Vocal Competition in the United States, said the part was actually difficult vocally and emotionally.

"Since the Count is always angry, I needed to find a good balance to keep the emotional side off my throat," he said. "When we get angry in real life, we tend to shout and use our throat but I can't be like that when I am singing. I love the dramatic side of the opera and so I needed to show that without compromising my technique."

Fernando, Gerodias and De la Cruz are frequent guest performers in Singapore but "Marriage of Figaro" was Fernando's first full production. He said he just loved the Singapore audiences.

"Although they are relatively young on the opera scene, they are very intelligent and appreciative," Fernando told the INQUIRER.

He described Gerodias as a shining star and De la Cruz as one of the most hilarious characters in the opera singing Don Basilio and Curzio. "Rachelle can make a lot of money singing Susanna and Lemuel's comedic timing was superb. His beautiful voice is a bonus for the audience."

## Fernando's other engagements

For the 2005-2006 season, Fernando is soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Los Angeles Metropolitan Symphony, and Sacristan in "Tosca" with Opera Pacific, where he was seen in over 15 productions including Doctor Bartolo in "Barber of Seville."

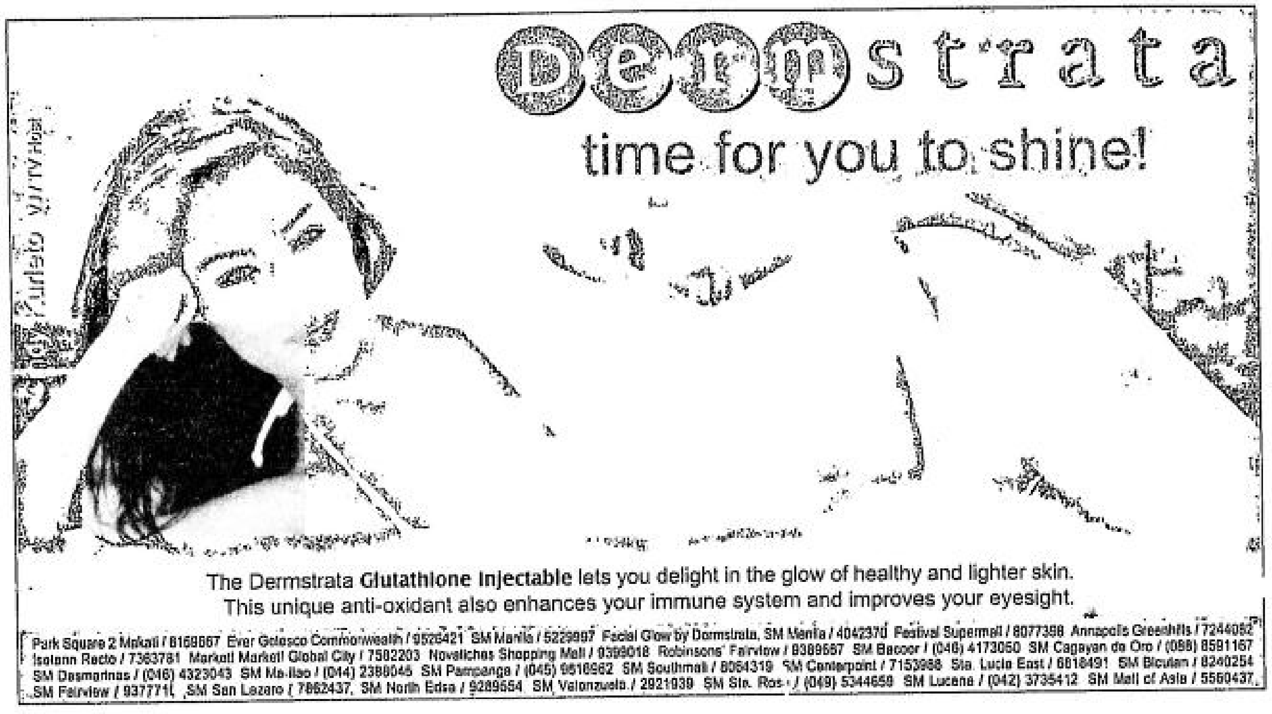
The baritone is also scheduled to sing the title role of Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Sept. 29-30, also with Gerodias as Tatyana and De la Cruz in the tenor lead role.

"In the Tchaikovsky opera, Manila audiences will see me in a different kind of role and romantic at that," he said. "I actually covered this role in Opera Pacific three years ago. I think this is a fantastic opportunity for our countrymen to hear the beauty of Tchaikovsky's music. I think 'Eugene Onegin' is going to be an opera thriller."

Fernando said that although the Manila conservatories of music were doing a great job training young singers, he thought of an opera program similar to the San Francisco Merolo Program.

"I think intensive programs are needed for young singers to get more advanced training," he added.

Asked about the big vocal challenge in doing the Mozart and Tchaikovsky operas, the baritone opined: "Mozart is very transparent. There is no way you can fake it. As the Count, the challenge is to not take the anger too far to affect the voice. In 'Onegin,' the big challenge will be the duet with Tatyana in the last act."



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**IVY VIOLAN** plays Juana Tangui, the blind woman who receives the healing of Sigay from the Virgin.

# *'Birhen ng Caysasay' musical at FEU*

THE RELIGIOUS MUSICAL "MAPAGHIMALANG Birhen ng Caysasay," written and directed by Nestor U. Torre with music by Ryan Cayabyab and musical arrangement by Jun Murillo, will be re-staged on Aug. 16 at the PCC Auditorium of the Far Eastern University. There will be shows at 10:45 a.m. and 3:15 p.m.

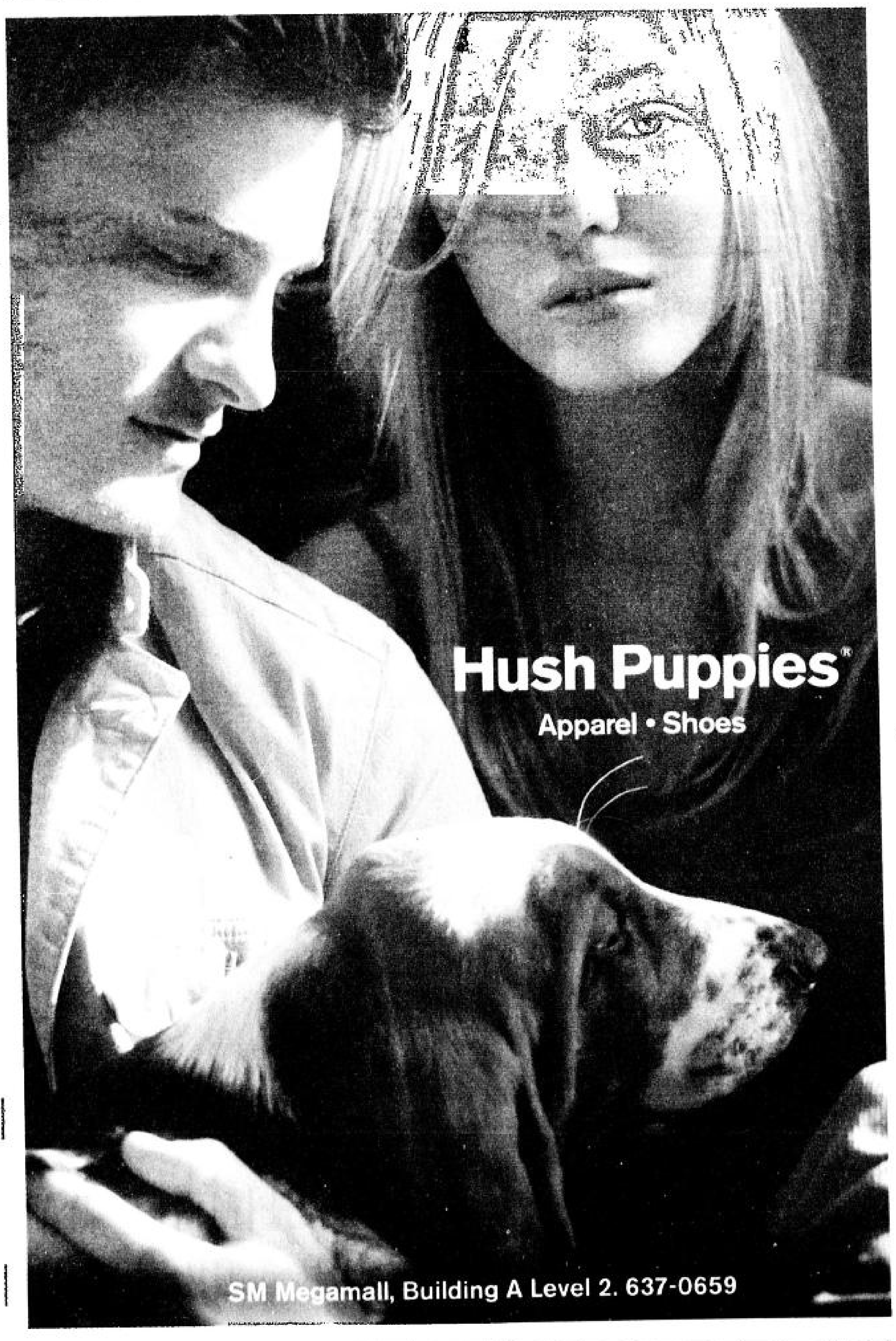
Theater critic Juan Antonio Lanuza says, "This is the best musical, Broadway-style, that Mr. Cayabyab has composed."

The production features a powerhouse cast led by Cocoy Laurel, Ivy Violan, Tommy Abuel, Rito Asilo, Andy Bais, Lou Veloso, Nicole David, Cheloy Dans.

The youngest members of the cast have gained local and international recognition: Mika Torre is a "Little Big Star" finalist and mainstay on ABS-CBN's "Bituing Walang Ningning," while Elijah Castillo won Best Actor in the 2006 Singapore Film Festival for his role in "Pepot Artista."

The soundtrack CD, sung by the original cast of the premier show at the Cultural Center of the Philippines last year, will also be launched on Aug. 16.

Call producer Ramon Orlina at 7496439, 7815918 or 0917-8805108.



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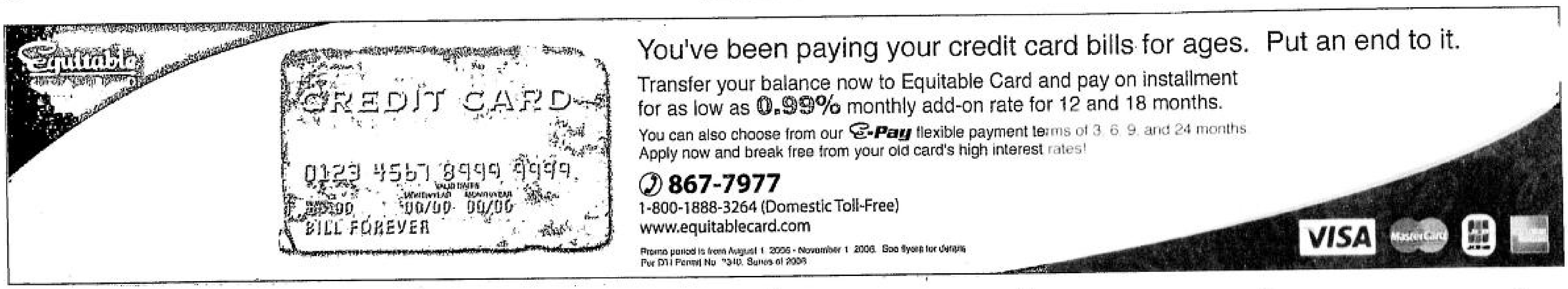

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Promo period is from August 1, 2006 - November 1, 2006. See flyers for details.
Per DTI Permit No. [illegible], Series of 2006

VISA

**ESLA** *Emilio S. Lim Appliances*

# Esla marks its 39th anniversary with new and exciting promos

## P1 million worth of appliances to be given away

Every year for almost four decades, Emilio S. Lim Appliances (Esla) has never failed to thank its valued and loyal patrons during its anniversaries.

For its 39th year, Esla once again gives exciting promotions and bigger prizes until September 30 to the delight of its customers. Thirty-nine (39) each of 10 different appliances worth P1 million will be given away to 390 winning customers.

The "P1,000,000 Halaga ng Appliance ang Ipamimigay, Para sa Inyo ang Lahat ng Ito" anniversary promo will give as prizes 39 refrigerators, 39 14" colored TVs, 39 washing machines, 39 DVD players, 39 cellphones, 39 stand fans, 39 rice cookers, 39 gas stoves, 39 oven toasters, and 39 flat irons in most of its branches nationwide.

Esla chief executive officer Roberto Jaime Lim said, "Every year, we intend to give back what our loyal patrons has given to us by way of anniversary sale and coming up with exciting promotions for them."

Also, starting today until Aug. 16, Esla brings back the second part of its anniversary sale.

All the prizes will be on display in its stores to give customers a glimpse of what they can win. "It would spark more excitement for them," Lim said.

The anniversary raffle promo may be the highlight of this year's celebration but whole-year round the leader in self-financed and personalized installment sales offers a wide range of installment promotions to reach its repeat and growing set of customers.

Customers who pay on time will be waived the last payment for the appliance store's Last-payment Free Promo. An additional 50-percent rebate is given to customers who pay in advance of their due date. There is also the cash rebate after six months for customers who pay on time; double rebate for customers who pay at the store and on time; zero-percent interest for those who pay 50-percent down payment; and the extended family promotion allows family and relatives to enjoy the same promo given to the repeat or loyal customer.

There are customers who want an appliance but the budget doesn't meet the initial cash-out. For this, Esla offers the combo deal to customers wherein they can pay whatever amount they have on hand and the rest will be given as installment.

Esla understands the consumers very well and knows what they need. With this in mind, the appliance store extends a promotion to subsidize the electricity cost of customers with the Monthly Electricity Subsidy Rebate when they purchase selected room air conditioner brands on installment.

The "Special of the Day" promotion is more exciting for the price of the item is only revealed on the day it will be offered. This way, customers have something to look forward to in their visits to any Esla branch.

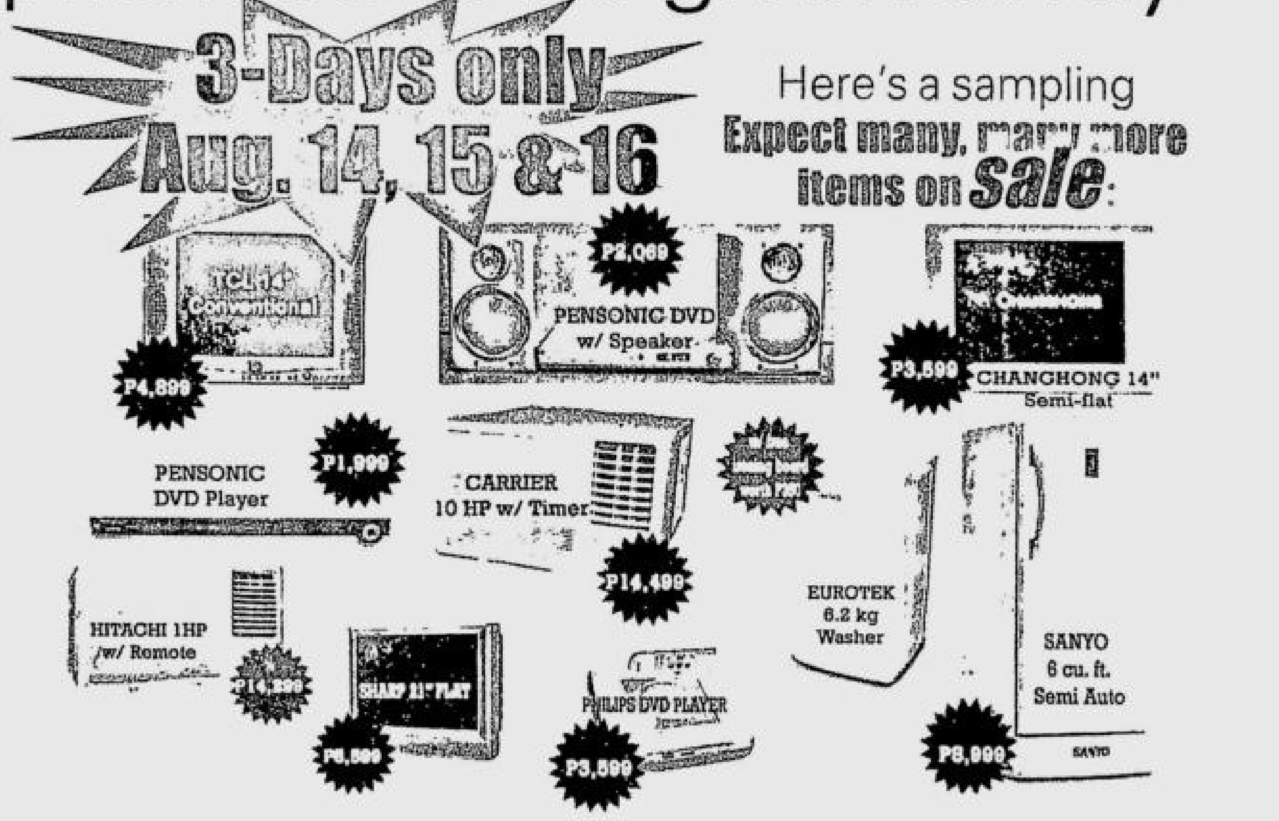
"Through the years, we've learned that Filipinos want something new every day," Lim said, "And as we have always been in touch with them we get to cook up promotions that they can enjoy and appreciate."

Esla is one of the most personalized stores in the country today. It has given its customers affordable and easy terms to allow them to have the appliance they want or the appliance they dream.

It all started on the dream of Emilio Lim on making purchasing appliances easier for the people, mostly for the mass market who doesn't have credit cards. The elder Lim introduced the installment business which was something new then. It was widely accepted by its customers generating more repeat customers that eventually became loyal patrons. Esla lives based on trust to the people.

With 42 branches nationwide, Esla remains a strong leader in the appliance industry. To reach more consumers in the provinces, Esla is opening a newly transferred branch in Lucena City on Aug. 19. And another one will soon open in Tagaytay City.

It never fails to innovate and offer promotions to make these appliances affordable to more and more people.



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### *6 years of value technology*

# *Moving Forward*

The world does not run out of success stories. TCL's emergence as the global brand that it is today is made even more formidable considering its early beginnings as a business enterprise of cassette production back in the mid-1980s.

Looking back, TCL has always been marching forward and top management can only be grateful for all the opportunities that have come its way. Committed to expand internationally, it bought out two reputed brands, Germany's Schneider in 2002 and GO-Video in 2003, followed by yet another breakthrough, its joint venture with Thomson Electronics in France.

The company is indeed a major international competitive player with Thomson in Europe, RCA in United States and TCL in Asia in its fold.

The Philippines is regarded as a key leadership market for TCL. Six years of phenomenal growth has brought it inside the elite circle of the country's top performers in the TV market, clinching a record of strong dealers' support, gaining Filipino consumers' acceptance and living up to its theme, "TCL, My New Favourite."

And being an emerging brand brings TCL closer to the consciousness of an enlightened Filipino customer. At the rate the brand is gaining wider acceptance and getting increasing support from existing and new dealers, TCL is fast becoming known as "My New Favourite." Amazing features come with every colored TV for an equally interesting, real-life entertainment experience. It is reflective of the value technology that has been brought in locally for six solid years. Known as RCA in the US, Thomson in Europe, TCL in the Philippines and Asia is committed to provide state of the art value for money colored TVs in the Philippine market.

**ESLA EMILIO S. LIM APPLIANCES**
The Leader in Self-Financed and Personalized Installment Sales

# 39th Anniversary Raffle Promo

# Esla offers the following promos

(Conditions Apply)

- ✓ No downpayment straight monthly
- ✓ Combo deal promo
- ✓ 0% interest on 6 months / 12 months (No credit card needed)
- ✓ Cash rebate after your 6th monthly payment
- ✓ Last payment free on prompt payment
- ✓ Last 2 payments free on repeat customers
- ✓ Reapply gift promo
- ✓ Extended family promo
- ✓ Double rebate promo
- ✓ Subsidized down payment on selected brands
- ✓ 48 hours credit approval
- ✓ Extended warranty on selected brands (optional)
- ✓ 50% additional rebate on advanced payment
- ✓ Computers on installment
- ✓ No cash out on selected models NEW
- ✓ Special for the day NEW
- ✓ Pay on time, pick a prize NEW
- ✓ Refer a friend, pick a prize NEW
- ✓ No interest until 2007 NEW
- ✓ No cash out on all room aircons NEW
- ✓ Electricity subsidy on installment of room aircons NEW

## "P1,000,000.00 PA PREMYO, PARA SA INYO ANG APPLIANCE NA ITO"

This August we will be celebrating our 39th Anniversary in the appliance industry. To celebrate this event we will be raffling off 390 units of assorted appliances and cellphones worth P1 million

1. Promo period is July 31, 2006 to October 15, 2006.
2. For every P2,000.00 single or accumulated purchases (within the promo period) of ESLA products either in cash or installment, customer is entitled to one (1) raffle coupon:

**Example:** CASH Price of Refrigerator
LCP: (Installment of Refrigerator

| Amount | Raffle Coupon |
|---|---|
| 10,500.00 | 5 |
| 13,125.00 | 6 |

3. Customer shall fill up raffle coupon with his / her complete name, address, contact number (if any) and affix signature and drop only at the raffle tambiolos of store where purchase was made.
4. Prizes at stake are 39 refrigerators, 39 colored TVs, 39 washing machines, 39 DVD players, 39 cellphones 39 stand fans, 39 rice cookers, 39 gas stoves, 39 oven toasters, 39 flat irons
5. A participant can win only once. If a name wins more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
6. Deadline of submission of entries is on October 15, 2006 closing of stores.
7. Winners will be notified by registered mail.
8. Raffle draw will be on October 16, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. per branch.
9. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from notification.
10. Prizes can be claimed at the store where purchase was made.
11. To claim prize, winners must present a valid ID (driver's license, SSS ID, company ID etc..) and claim stub.
12. Prizes are transferable but NOT CONVERTIBLE TO CASH.
13. Prizes are tax-free.
14. Employees of Esla and its subsidiaries including its agencies (advertising, security, manpower etc.) suppliers inluding their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this raffle promo

Per DTI NCR permit No. 2541 Series of 2006

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**SHARP**

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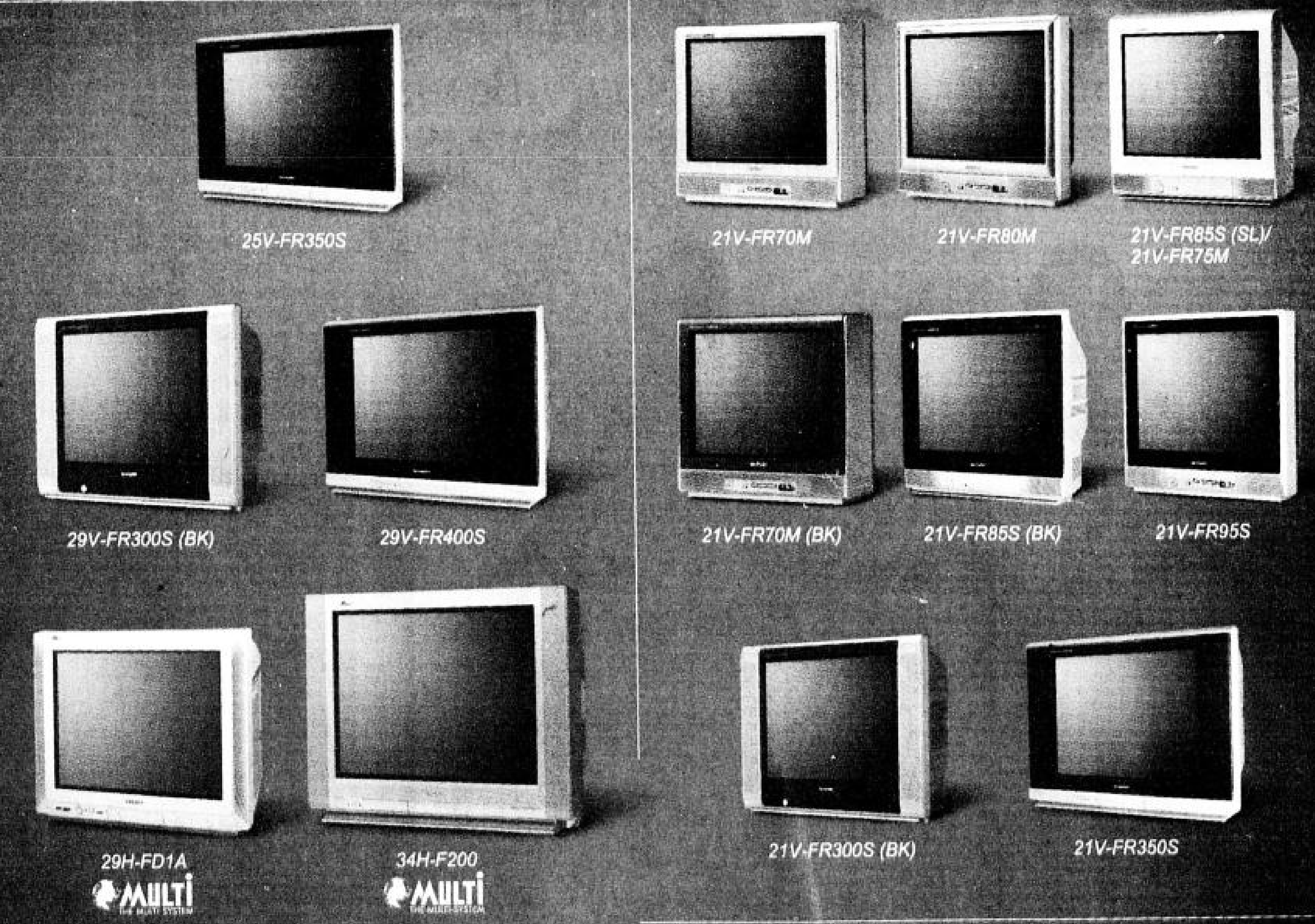

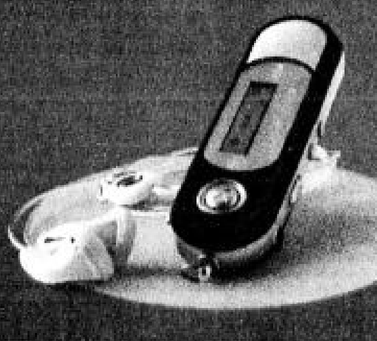

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ESLA

List of Branches and Addresses

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| ANTIPOLO | 696-5701 | 696-5796 | Circumferential Road Brgy. Dalig Antipolo City (beside Mercury Drugs) |
| BAESA | 361-3567 | 330-0164 | 347 AB&C Quirino Highway, Baesa, Novaliches, Quezon City |
| BUENDIA | 889-9942 | 889-9943 | 49 Buendia Ave., (Near Cor. Dian St., Beside Mercury Drug) |
| CALAMBA | (049) 545-5252 | 545-7787 | Unit 5 & 6 Sta. Cecilia Business Center II National H Parian Calamba, Laguna |
| COGEO | 682-5811 | 682-2662 | 2F Sisco Bldg. Unit 2-A & 2-B Marcos H-way Gate 2 Cogeo Antipolo City |
| CUBAO | 913-3060 | 912-5664 | #8 20 & 21, 3F Farmers Plaza, Araneta Center Cubao, Quezon City |
| DASMA 1 | (046) 416-4739 | 416-4891 | 11 Aguinaldo Highway Palapala, Dasmariñas, Cavite |
| DASMA 2 | (046) 416-5426 | 850-2833 | Congressional Ave., Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite |
| ESPAÑA | 743-7433 | 743-7014 | #1583 España St., cor Dos Castillas St., Sampaloc Manila |
| FAIRVIEW | 461-6664 | 461-6719 | Commonwealth Ave.,beside Doña Carmen Subd. Fairview, Quezon City |
| GMA | (046) 890-2309 | 972-0364 | Along Governors Drive, Gen. Mariano Alvarez Cavite |
| IMUS | (046) 471-7168 | | 306 Aguinaldo Highway, Brgy.Palico , Imus Cavite |
| KALENTONG | 534-5420 / 534-5419 / 878-870 | | Gen. Kalentong, Mandaluyong City |
| LAGRO | 461-6727 | 461-6738 | Unit 7 Lester Bldg.Quirino Highway, Lagro, Quezon City |
| LAS PIÑAS | 802-4929 | | 404 Real St., Talon, Las Piñas City |
| LIPA | (043) 757-0978 | 756-5747 | Claro M. Recto cor. T.M. Kalaw, Lipa City, Batangas |
| LUCENA | (042) 373-7435 | | Sangalang Bldg., Juarez cor. Merchan St., Lucena City |
| MARCOS | 646-5205 | | Marcos Highway cor. Felix Ave., San Roque, Marikina City |
| MARIKINA 1 | 941-2943 | 948-3786 | 31 Sumulong Highway, Sto. Niño, Marikina City |
| MARIKINA 2 | 997-7391 | 942-0885 | 37 Sumulong Highway, Sto. Niño, Marikina City |
| PARAÑAQUE | 825-9152 | 829-1507 | 497 Quirino Ave., San Dionisio Parañaque City |
| PASIG 1 | 642-1663 | 642-1676 | Pasig Plaza Bonifacio Victoria Theater Bldg., Dr. Sixto Ave., Pasig City |
| PASIG 2 | 641-7648 | 643-3289 | 138 Caruncho Bldg. Dr. Sixto Ave., Pasig City |
| PROPER | 930-0809 | 936-3426 | 1035 Quirino Highway, Sta. Monica Novaliches Bayan, Quezon City |
| ROSARIO | (046) 438-0885 | 438-0886 | National Highway, Bo. Tejeron, Rosario Cavite |
| SAN JOSE | (044) 691-5122 | 924-6172 | 200 Dalisay Bldg. Tungkong Mangga San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan |
| SAN PABLO | (049) 561-1690 | | Zamora St., cor. Regidor St., San Pablo City, Laguna |
| SAN PEDRO | 808-5175 | 847-9652 | AGM Commercial, National Highway, Nueva, San Pedro Laguna |
| STA. CRUZ | (049) 808-1233 | | Regidor St. Sta. Cruz Laguna |
| STA. MARIA | (044)641-3112 | 927-6145 | Francisco Santiago St., Poblacion, Sta. Maria, Bulacan |
| TANAUAN | (043) 778-3136 | 778- 3220 | 95 A. Mabini Ave., Tanauan, Batangas |
| TANAY | 654-4691 | 654-4690 | Catapusan St., Plaza Albea, Tanay, Rizal |
| TAYTAY | 660-5365 | 660-5611 | B.A. Cruz cor. Rizal Ave., TayTay, Rizal |
| WAREHOUSE | 240-1826 | 240-1825 | Irish Lane ESLA Urban Homes, Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Cainta Rizal |
| HEAD OFFICE | 894-2872 / 894-4239 / 813-0649 | | 8th Floor Unit B, ACT Tower 135 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave, Makati City |

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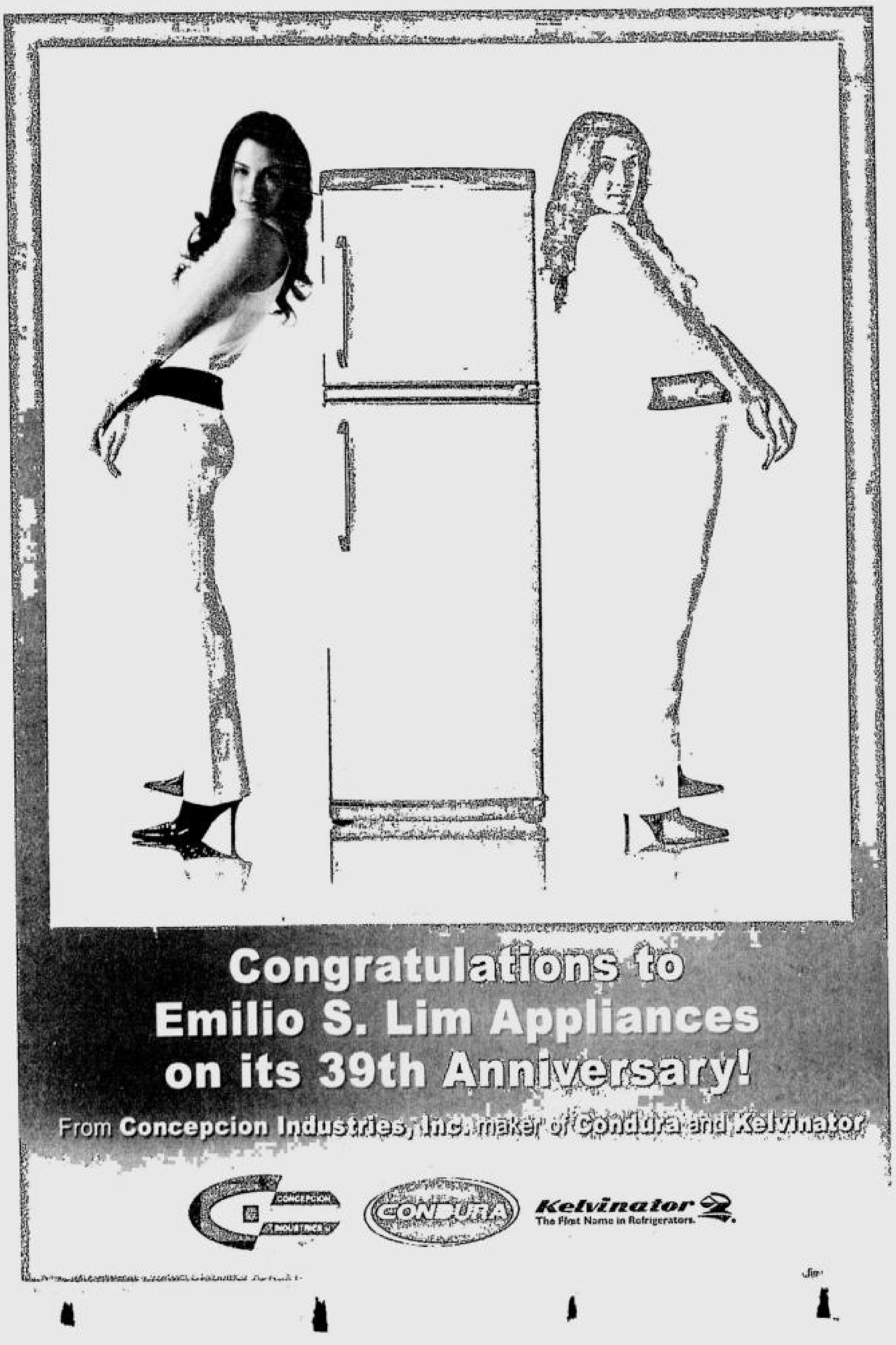


## People, Events & Products

# Hyundai wins Aceee's 'Green' Vehicle honors

SEVERAL HYUNDAI MODELS HAVE BEEN selected for the Washington DC-based American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's (Aceee) list of the year's most environmentally friendly vehicles. The Aceee announced Hyundai's environmental scores part of its Green Book Online, the 9th annual edition of Aceee's environmental guide to cars and trucks, available at GreenerCars.com.

The Hyundai Accent ranked sixth among all makes and models for being one of the "Greenest Vehicles of 2006," behind the Honda Insight, Honda Civic GX, Toyota Prius, Honda Civic Hybrid and Toyota Corolla. Within the compact segment, the Accent was also given a "superior" class ranking.

The Aceee also gave the Hyundai Elantra a superior ranking in the mid-size car category. The Elantra's green score topped manual transmission vehicles in its class. Additionally, the Sonata topped the large-car segment and was selected by Aceee as one of the year's "Greener Choices."

"Hyundai's scores in the Aceee rankings illustrate our ongoing commitment to designing and developing cleaner, more fuel-efficient technology," said John Krafcik, vice president of strategic planning and product development. "We are pleased to be ranked among the industry's most environmentally friendly vehicles."

Widely regarded as a leading buyer's guide to environment-friendly passenger cars, trucks and SUVs, GreenerCars.com provides the facts necessary to examine the eco-performance of any 2006 model. Vehicles are analyzed on the basis of a "Green Score," a singular measure that incorporates unhealthy tailpipe emissions, fuel consumption and the emissions of gasses that cause global warming.

In addition to highlighting the year's "Greenest," "Meanest," "Greener Choices" and best-in-class lists, the GreenerCars.com Web site contains informational write-ups on model year 2006 highlights, a consumer primer on vehicles and the environment, and advice on how to buy "green" when shopping for a new car or truck.

Acee is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing energy efficiency as a means of promoting both economic prosperity and environmental protection.

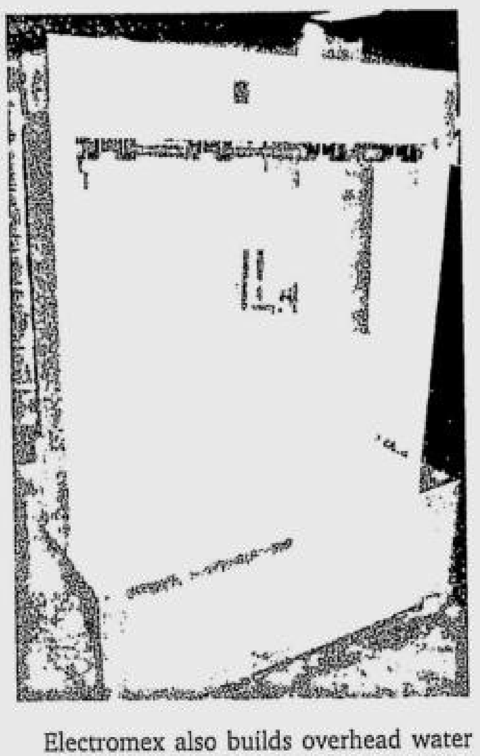
**KBP SIGNS CONTRACT WITH GSI**

The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters ng Pilipinas (KBP) has signed an exclusive contract with Geovisual Solutions Inc (GSI) to develop software that would help both radio stations and advertisers get more useful information from radio audience surveys. The software, RadioView, combines audience research data with geographic information and a comprehensive database of about 1,000 radio stations. This technology will enable radio broadcasters to respond to their audiences' demands. It will also give advertisers the means to directly equate sales in the field to their advertising campaigns. KBP's move is part of the broadcast association's thrust to enhance the benefits delivered by radio to its listeners and advertisers. Shown during the contract signing are (from left) Butch Canoy, KBP president, Shirley Soriano, chief technology officer of GSI, Andy Marsh, GSI technical consultant, and Ruperto Nicdao Jr, KBP chair.

# Water refill station for 150K

ELECTROMEX INC IS THE LARGEST WATER refilling station equipment manufacturer. The P150,000 UHP500 is fully assembled and compact. Truly transportable and "plug and play", the UHP500 comes with a heavy-duty industrial Ozonator that kills germs and bacteria 300 times better than chlorine. It is self-contained with pumps, tanks, filters, carbon block, and ultraviolet germicidal lamp. With a size of 4 feet by 3 feet by 6 feet, this unit is perfect for factories, buildings, subdivisions, schools, government offices, hotels and resorts, military camps, and job sites. At a production cost of just 30 centavos per gallon and a capacity of five gallons per minute, the UHP500 will pay for itself in three months. You will never buy expensive bottled water anymore.

The Electromex UHP500 is more superior than RO (reverse osmosis) and doesn't waste 70-percent in backwash water. The heavy duty Ozonator removes lead, mercury, and bacteria and doesn't require salt or expensive membranes.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

*Editor* **Emmie G. Velarde**

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# FPJ, Mega still tops

**By Marinel R. Cruz**

**INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE**

THE LATE ACTOR AND NAtional Artist for Film Fernando Poe Jr.—known for the superhero character Panday and movie hits that depicted him as a champion of the poor—is still on top of the Filipinos' list of favorite actors.

This is according to the Social Weather Stations, whose latest survey, conducted in June, revealed that Poe, also known as "FPJ," continues to be the choice of 16 percent of the respondents.

The actor, who ran and lost in the 2004 presidential election, died of an aneurysm in December 2004.

In the survey commissioned by the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), FPJ is followed by MegastarSharon Cuneta, who registered 9.1 percent.

The results were based on SWS interviews with 1,200 household heads from June 22-28. The survey was conducted nationwide in the four "major study areas"—of National Capital Region, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Actor-turned-politician Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. placed third at 8 percent, and Judy Ann Santos ranked fourth at 6.2 percent.

Robin Padilla and Angel Locsin, who are set to do a soap series together on GMA 7 late this year, landed in fifth and sixth place, with 5 percent and 3.2 percent, respectively.

## Nora in 9th slot

Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, whose husband, Sen. Ralph Recto, said would be retiring from politics in 2007, tied with Locsin at 3.2 percent. Comedy king Dolphy made seventh place with 3.1 percent.

Cesar Montano, who reaped awards here and abroad last year for "Panaghoy sa Suba," landed the eighth slot at 2.5 percent. Montano is also rumored to be interested in running for Manila vice mayor in the coming elections.

Despite her recent decision to plead guilty to drug possession charges in Los Angeles, California, superstar Nora Aunor ranked ninth at 2.1 percent.

The survey also showed that 37 percent of Filipinos preferred action/adventure to other genres.

Drama films are in the second slot at 29 percent, while comedy placed third at 15 per-

FPJ, MEGA/ F4

FERNANDO POE JR.

SHARON CUNETA

# Bishop sees 'jueteng' film and likes it

**By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

DAGUPAN CITY—LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN Archbishop Oscar Cruz, chair of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Sugal (People's Crusade Against Gambling), watched the independent film "Kubrador (Bet Collector)" on Friday and liked what he saw.

In a statement, Cruz said "Kubrador" showed "the shameful and detestable truth" that bet collectors were much-exploited characters within the syndicate and were "not altogether to blame [and in fact were] twice a victim of poverty and exploitation."

## CBCP rating

The digital film, which chronicles three days in the life of a "jueteng" bet collector, has been reaping awards from international film festivals.

In a telephone interview on Saturday, Cruz said he watched the movie during a screening for bishops at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) cinema.

He said the movie's producer, MLR Film's Joji Alonso, earlier asked him to watch it, but not necessarily to endorse it.

"So I requested the screening, so we could give it a rating," he said, adding that the rating would be out next week.

While Cruz praised the story line and acting, he said "Kubrador" seemed to tell its audience that "jueteng" need not be stopped.

## How about...

"You will pity the lead actor (Gina Pareño). She was poor, her husband was no good, and she was helping the parish priest in collecting money for a wake. But I'm not convinced that she [personifies] all *kubradors*."

Cruz said it was easy to make an admirable movie about the life of a *kubrador*, but it would be "challenging and interesting" to make a true-life film about a "jueteng" lord.

"It would take a good amount of big lies and twisted moral values to make a film about a noble and lovable 'jueteng' lord," said Cruz.

But in the statement, Cruz had good words for the character that Pareño played, saying the bet collector was "admirable and heroic."

He said the *kubrador* was at the bottom of the "jueteng" hierarchy, a "slave" of the trade.

Sabi ni nanay

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| 24 Hours | Cueshe | D1 24 | D2 24 |
| Kung Malaya Lang Ako | Kris Lawrence | A1 malaya | A4 malaya |
| Martyr Nyebera | Kamikazee | A2 martyr | A5 martyr |
| Laban Nating Lahat Ito | Manny Pacquiao | A3 laban | A6 laban |
| Makulay na Buhay | Jolina Magdangal | E1 buhay | E4 buhay |
| Jeepney | Kala | E2 jeepney | E5 jeepney |
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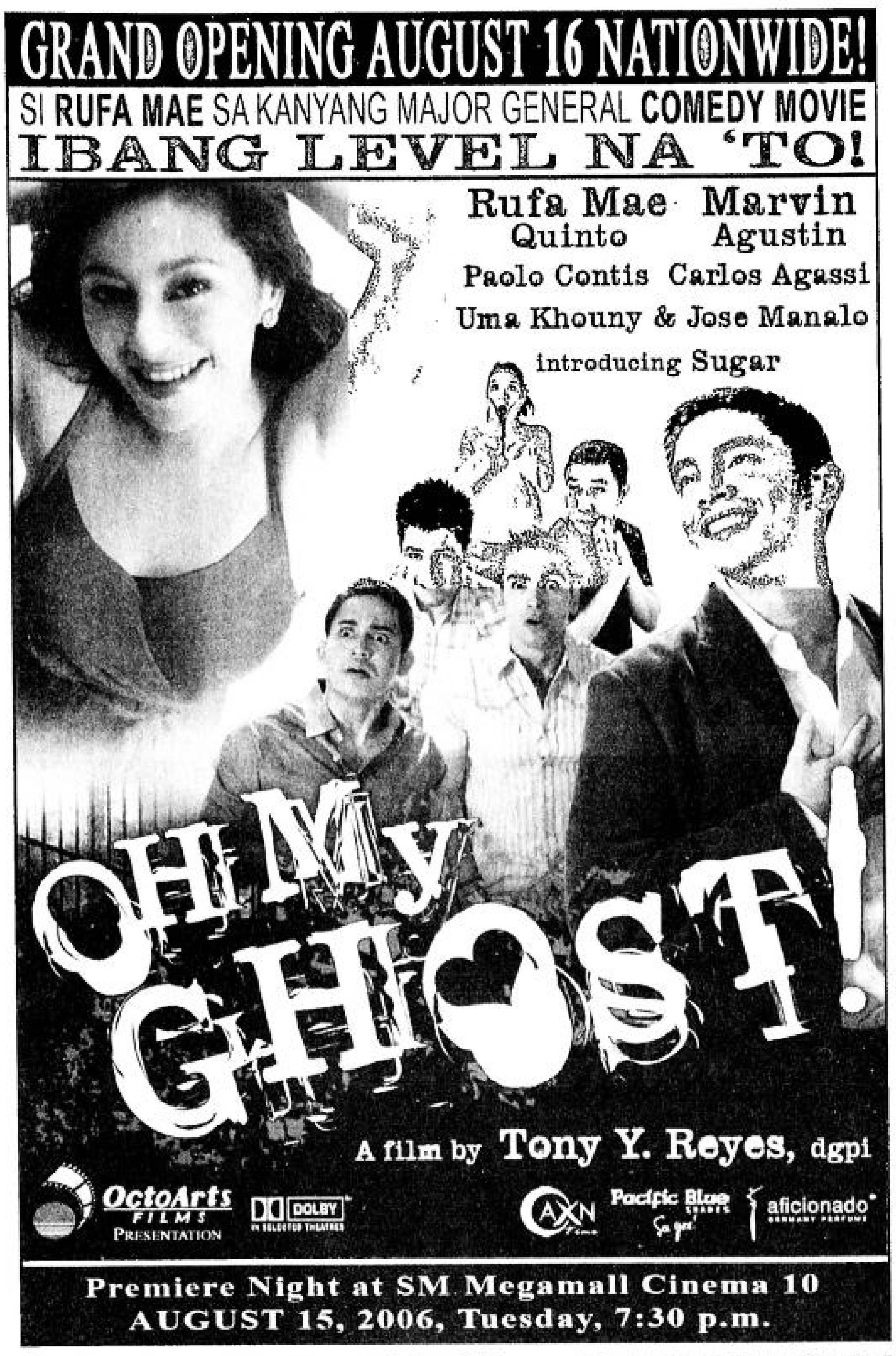
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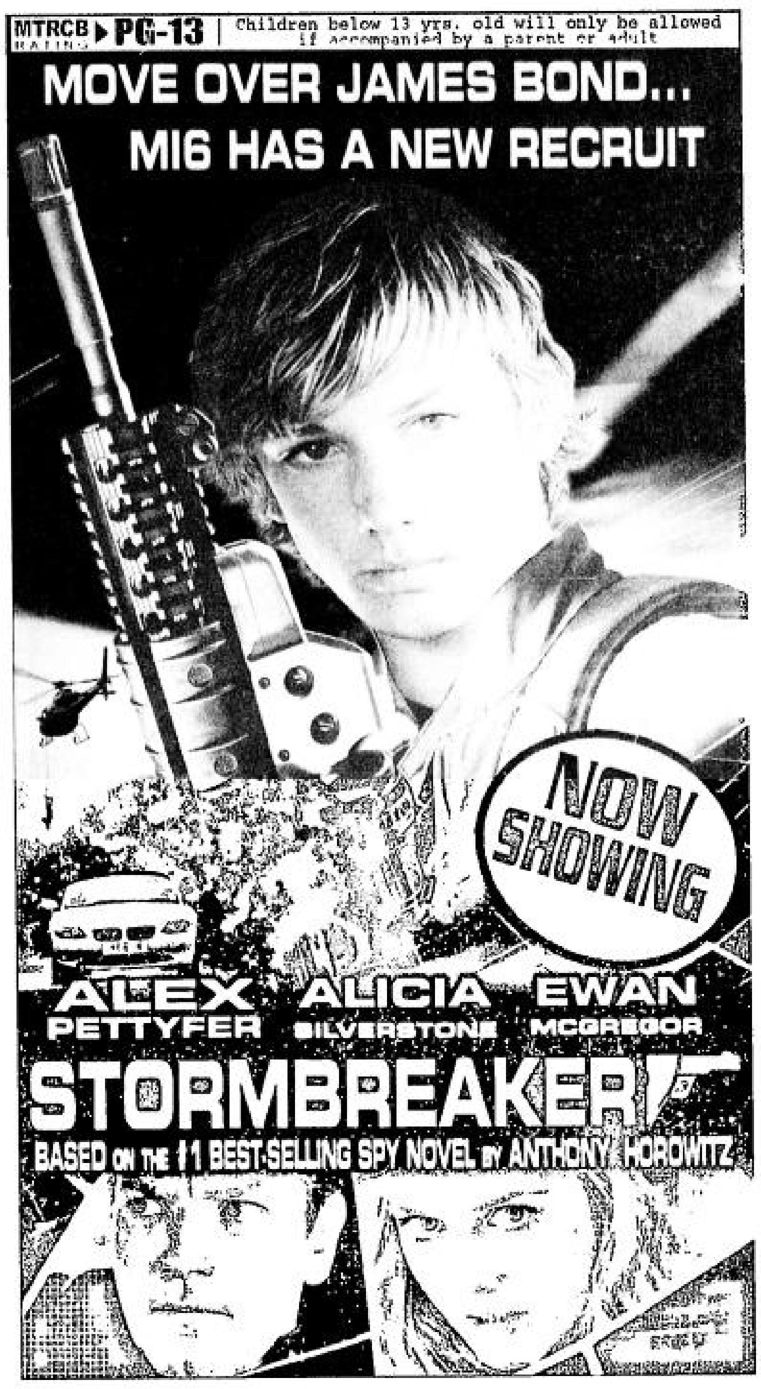
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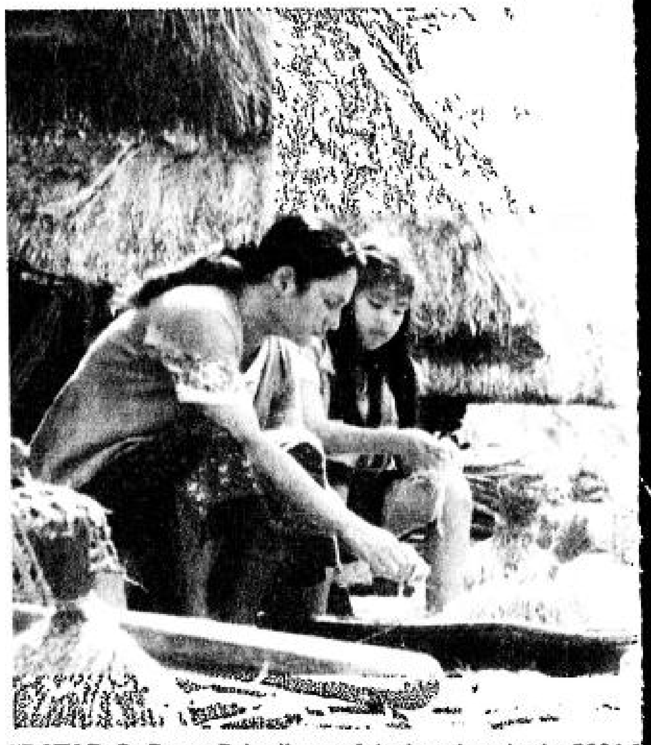
"BATAD, Sa Paang Palay," one of the best bets in the 2006 C

# The scrip

**VIEWFIN**

*Nestor U. Torre*

LOOKING FOR MORE INSTRUCTIVE lessons to be learned from Cinemalaya 2006, we now focus on the screenplays of the entries to this year's festival.

We were among the jurors who chose the best stories from the many synopses submitted to the competition, after which the 30 semi-finalists were expanded into full screenplays. From these, we jurors selected the 10 official finalists, which were then each given a P500,000 production grant by **Tonyboy Cojuangco.**

After reading the synopses, we concluded that the most promising stories were for "Tulad ng Dati," "Rotonda," "Batad, Sa Paang Palay," "Donsol" and "Mga Anino sa Apuhap." (Some of them had different titles then.) And, when we read the 30 semi-finalists' screenplays, we concluded that the scripts had realized their synopses' potential.

Happily, all five of our better bets became official Cinemalaya 2006 entires. Sadly, however, "Apuhap" wasn't finished in time for the festival. This is a pity, because we found its story about the world of the blind compelling and moving.

For this rea
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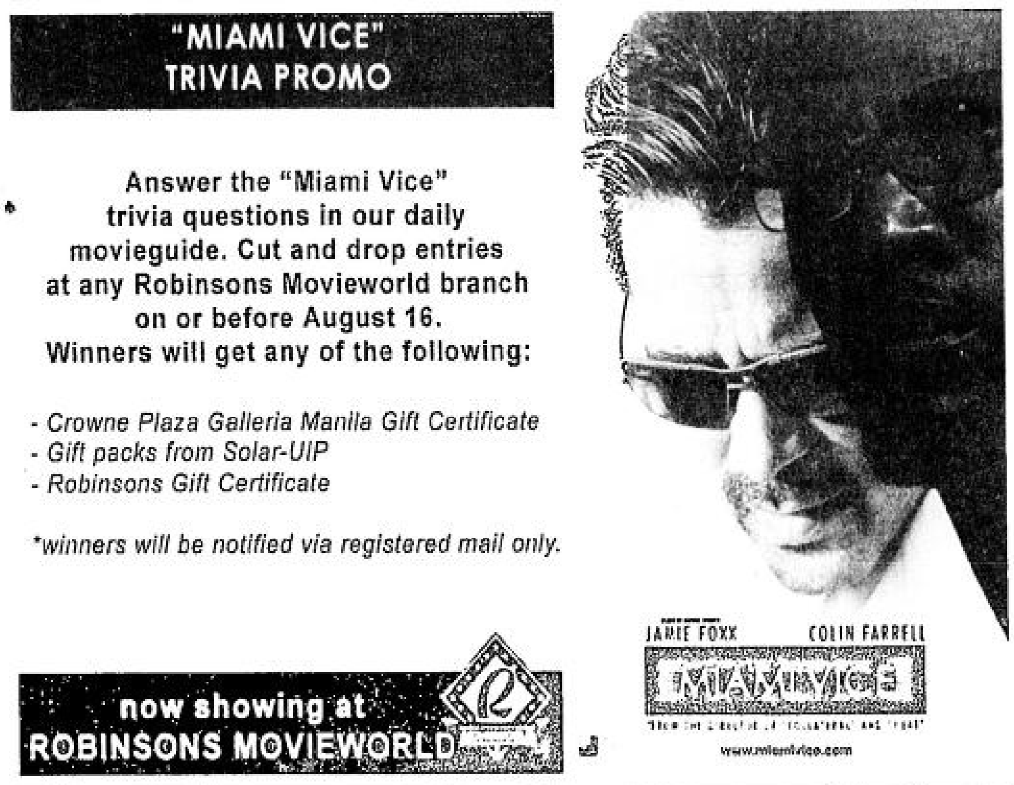
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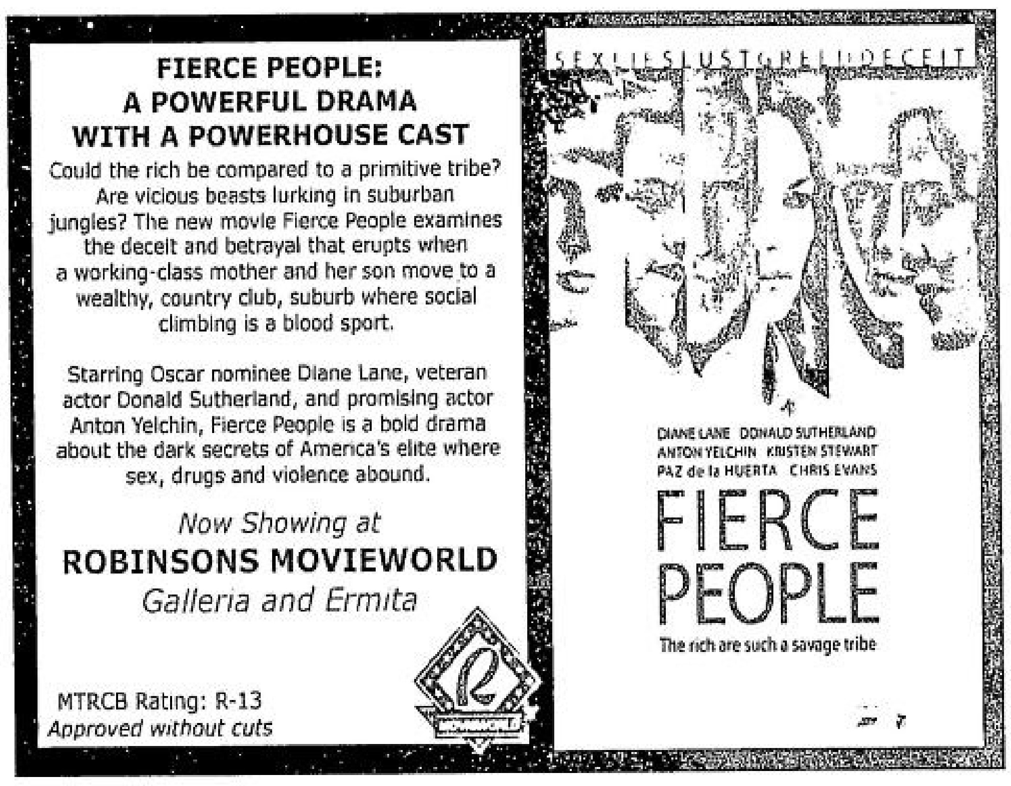
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FIERCE PEOPLE
The rich are such a savage tribe

# Gilliam strikes again

LONDON—TERRY GILLIAM tends not to make life easy f audiences, and his new fil about a 10-year-old girl who pr pares heroin for her father to i ject and seeks to seduce an old simpleton is out to make them squirm some more.

The 65-year-old filmmaker is unapologetic for the provocativ scenes in "Tideland," which fo lows Jeliza-Rose and her add father on their journey to an is lated farm house where h imagination is let loose.

"I just felt we are constricti the way we look at the world a the way we think, particula about children," said Gilliam, rector of critically acclaim films "Brazil" and "Twelve Mo keys." "I knew full well when we were making it there would b lot of adults who would squi and be very uncomfortable, but that's because of what goes on in their heads, not because of what children are about."

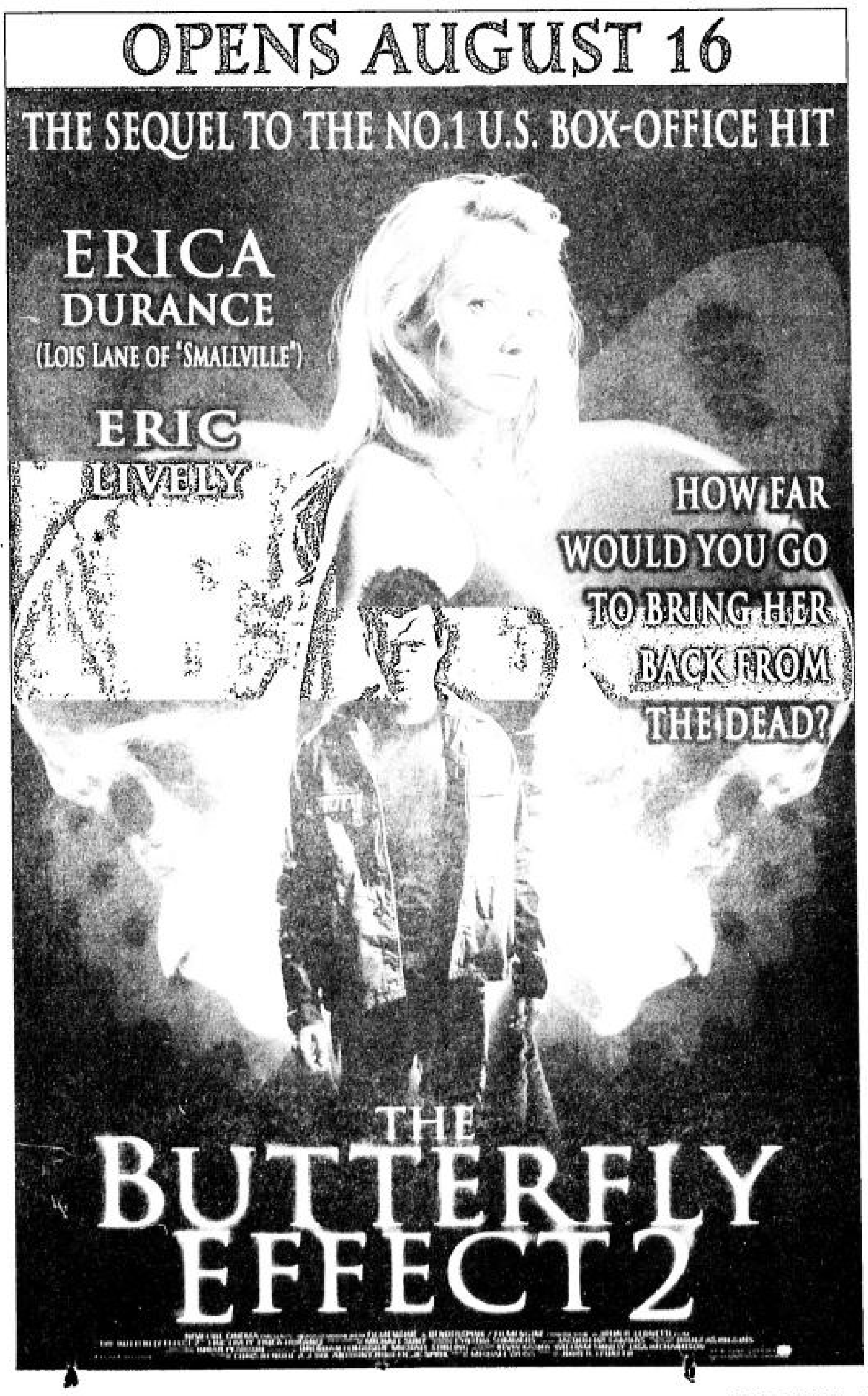
## Heroin tripping

Jeliza-Rose's down-and-out father, played by Jeff Bridg spends much of his life "on vac tion," tripping on heroin he in jects after it is prepared for him by his daughter.

Her companions are fou dolls' heads removed from the bodies, and she wants to have a baby with Dickens, a deranged 20-year-old who mistakes pass ing trains for giant sharks.

Gilliam also throws stuffed an imals, a rotting corpse and warped religious beliefs into the mix.

"Tideland," based on a novel by Mitch Cullin, seeks to explo children's budding sexuality, a topic Gilliam believes has be come taboo because of asso tions with pedophilia. *Mike Collett-White, Reuters*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inemalaya Film Festival

# ot's the thing

DER

on, we hope that Cineill see it fit to include the project in its 2007 slate rombata," an ambitious e that also couldn't be finthis year's Cinemalaya). four of our five most cts did get produced and recently concluded festing Dati," "Batad" and "Rost of the awards.

ne heartened us, and the importance of good the production of out- This observation is being other new filmmakers to strong material before movies, so that a better assured.

that some outstanding t off-the-cuff and on the . with their makers "findrial and their films' thrust e during the shooting

ve that this method is efen the filmmaker is espeew directors who aren't supremely confident about their ability would do well to hedge their bets by first coming up with excellent scripts before putting their projects in production.

What made the screenplays of "Tulad ng Dati," "Batad," "Rotonda," "Donsol" and "Apuhap" so promising? The ace of the script of "Tulad ng Dati" was its investigation of the psychic life of a tragedy-scarred band. Also key was its maker's ability to get the band's members to play themselves—a rare plus point in filmmaking.

For its part, "Batad" touched us with its simple yet significant tale about the clash between tradition and modernity, as vivified by the shoes that its barefooted young protagonist was so desperate to own.

"Rotonda" impressed us with its deft and complex interweaving of its downbeat and deadbeat characters' lives. "Apuhap" fascinated us with its view of blind people's lives as an ironically instructive "negative" to seeing people's "positive" world. And "Donsol" used the noble *butanding* in Sorsogon as an objective correlative *and* inspiration for its wounded and searching characters.

With significant and fresh themes and thrusts like these, the synopses and screenplays helped assure the superior outcome of their finished films. We trust that the point is not lost on other new filmmakers, including those thinking of joining the Cinemalaya 2007 competition.

## SHOW TIME

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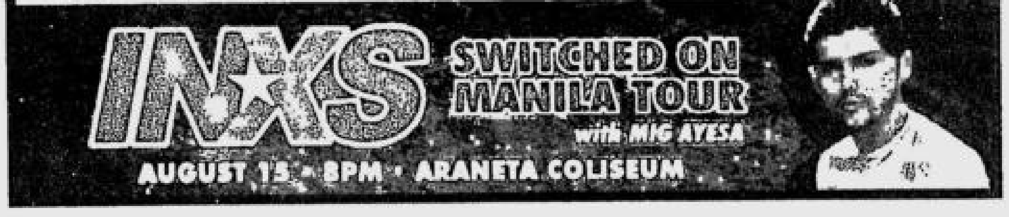

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# Film Academy releases this year's honor roll

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**JERICHO** Rosales and Claudine Barretto in "Nasaan Ka Man"

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE FILM ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES (FAP) has announced the list of nominees for the 24th Luna Awards to be staged on Sept. 16 at the Casino Filipino Grand Theater in Parañaque City.

Dubbed as the local version of Hollywood's Oscars, this year's honor roll is dominated by major studios, with a few independent filmmaker nominees.

"Our rule was, for as long as the movie was commercially shown, it could vie for the Luna," explained Leo Martinez, FAP director general. "It doesn't matter whether it was shot on film or with a digital camera, whether made by academy members or not."

Entries in the Metro Manila Film Festival are competing with a Cinemalaya and two other independent films, according to FAP chair Espiridion Laxa.

## Top contender

Star Cinema's "Nasaan Ka Man" topped the tally with 10 nods, followed by Regal's "Blue Moon" with nine, Star's "Dubai" with seven.

The internationally acclaimed Cinemalaya winner, ufo Pictures' "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," merited six nominations, including Best Actor for newcomer Nathan Lopez.

Completing the top five is Canary Films' "Kutob," with five nods.

Other indie films that cinched nominations are "Mga Pusang Gala" with two, and "Masahista," with one.

Other entries with multiple nominations are Unitel's "La Visa Loca," Imus' "Exodus" and Regal's "Ako Legal Wife," with four each.

The topnotcher among the film companies is Star Cinema, with a total of 18 nods, trailed by Regal with 14.

Last year's Best Actress Claudine Barretto (for "Milan") copped two lead actress nominations this year, for "Nasaan" and "Dubai."

Another double threat is Irma Adlawan, in the running for Lead ("Mga Pusang Gala") and Supporting Actress ("Nasaan").

## Partial list

Here's a partial list of nominees:

**Best Picture:** "Maximo," "Blue Moon," "Dubai," "La Visa Loca," "Nasaan Ka Man."

**Best Director:** Joel Lamangan, "Blue Moon"; Cholo Laurel, "Nasaan"; Mark Meily "La Visa"; Rory Quintos, "Dubai"; Auraeus Solito, "Maximo."

**Best Actress:** Zsazsa Padilla, "Ako Legal Wife"; Boots Anson-Roa, "Blue Moon."

**Best Actor:** Marvin Agustin, "Kutob"; Ricky Davao, "Mga Pusang Gala"; Eddie Garcia "Blue Moon"; Dennis Trillo, "Blue Moon."

The Luna Awards is produced by Romnick Sarmenta and Harlene Bautista's Eight Elephants.

JUDY ANN SANTOS

RAMON REVILLA JR.

# FPJ, Mega still tops

From page F1

cent. Romantic films ranked fourth at 3.1 percent.

War-inspired films placed fifth at 1.8 percent, while true-to-life movies are in the sixth slot at 1.5 percent. Horror movies registered 1.4 percent.

In eighth place are science fiction and fantasy, which registered .9 percent. Documentaries and martial arts films are in ninth and 10th slots at .8 percent and .5 percent, respectively.

## TV vs theaters

According to the survey, Filipinos would rather watch locally produced films on television than on the silver screen. A whopping 77 percent indicated they'd do so instead of going to the theaters, a choice that registered only 6.5 percent.

Twenty-nine percent of the respondents also said they favored watching video compact discs (VCDs). Incidentally, Filipinos who prefer VCDs also said they watched films on pirated copies (19 percent) more than original VCDs (7 percent). The remaining 3.2 percent was undecided.

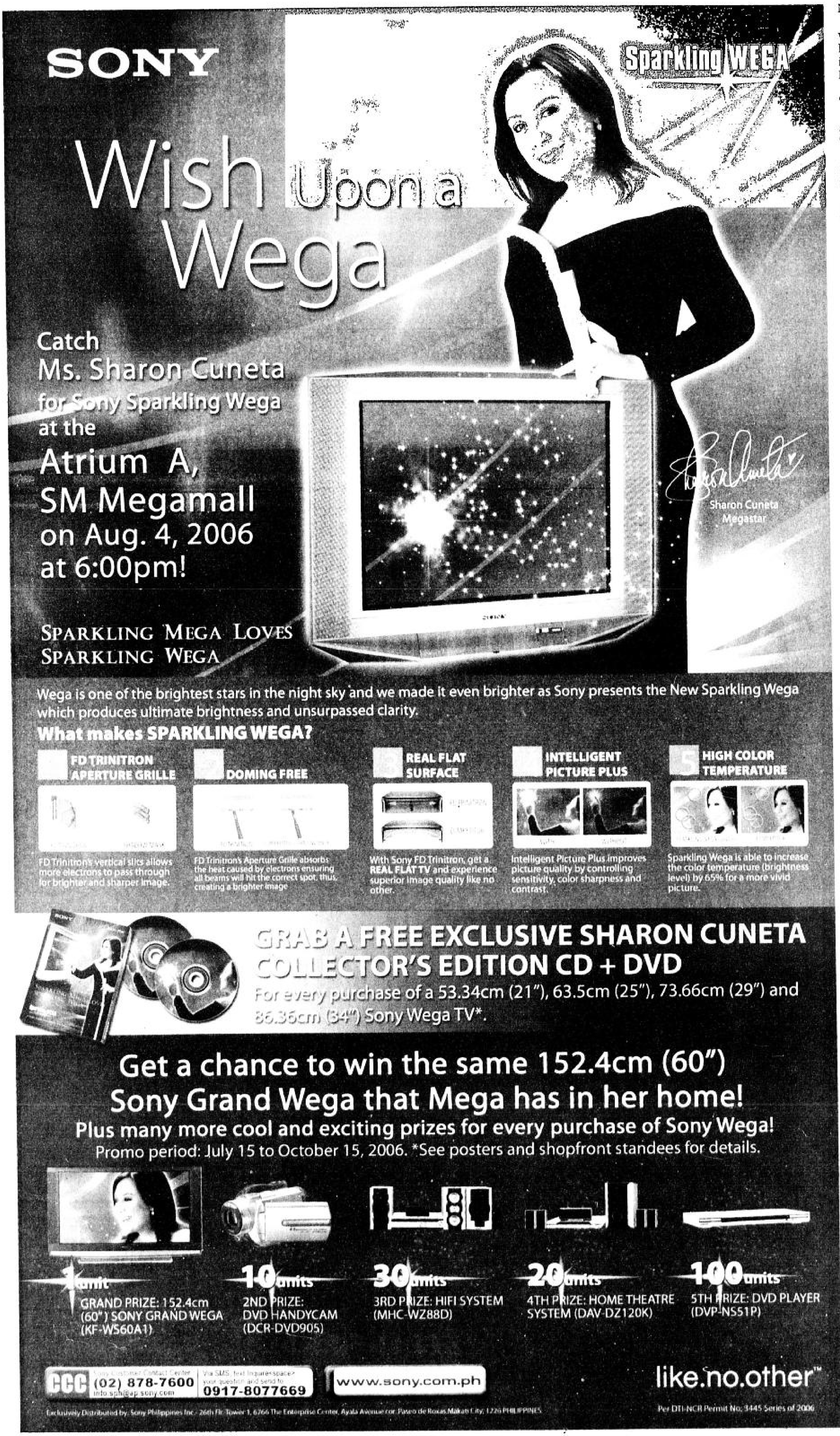
Only 5.7 percent favored digital video discs (DVDs). Original DVDs (2.8 percent) were preferred to bootleg copies (2.6 percent). Some .4 percent was undecided.

## Still on VHS

Two percent still watched movies on the Video Home System, or VHS.

Fifty-two percent said they watched local films at least once a week, and 16 percent said they watched two to three times a month. Fifteen percent watched local films once a month. Some 7.9 percent watched only several times a year.

Majority of the respondents said the proliferation of bold movies kept them from watching local films.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NO REGRETS. "If I fall and commit the same mistakes, I'll stand up again."

# For Vina, work before love

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THERE'S TIME FOR EVERYTHING," SAID singer Vina Morales, who at 30, is still "loveless."

"I go out a lot these days, but mostly as part of a big group," Vina told a group of entertainment writers over lunch recently. "I prefer going out with non-show biz guys. *Hindi magulo*. I'm not like other people who are so open to the press about their relationships. I will answer your questions, but don't expect me to go into details."

The singer said she was busy running her Ystilo Salon franchise, poultry and trucking businesses and preparing for her "Showgirl" concert on Friday at the Big Dome.

"One day, when my work slows down, I might finally concentrate on my love life," she said.

**TAKE FIVE**

**You're marking your 20th year in the business. What advice can you give to new artists?**

In this business, you really need to have the right attitude. You should know how to deal with different kinds of people. You have to be down-to-earth. You have to love your work. Newcomers don't seem to know that these are the secrets to longevity.

**Can you share some lessons you've**

FOR VINA/ G2

# The Real Causes of WOMEN'S HAIRLOSS

Hair can enhance or ruin a woman's appearance. Deemed her "crowning glory," thick, healthy, lush strands that frame a woman's face can emphasize her beauty and youth. On the contrary, hair loss can do the exact opposite. It can make a woman appear older and less attractive, which can cause low self-esteem, depression and isolation.

There are various triggers of women's baldness. Hormonal changes by far have the biggest impact since they stimulate hair growth *and* cause the actual hairloss. Female Pattern Baldness (or Androgenetic alopecia) is a reaction to male hormones in the body. It is an inherited sensitivity to the effects of male hormones (androgens) on scalp hair follicles.

Stress can also be a contributing factor to women's hairloss. This leads to a severe tension in the scalp, affecting the supply of essential nutrition required for the healthy growth of hair. Hair damage from the use of hair styling treatments and other chemicals also affects the hair condition, making the hair strands weak and causing them to break.

Svenson utilizes various treatments to help women avoid hairloss from occurring. In the case of hairloss that has already started, Svenson also has solutions to prevent it from progressing to more advanced hairloss. With Svenson, women not only get their hair back, they also look younger and better. Call Svenson today at 892-HAIR (4247) for a free consultation.

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Radioactive Sago Project

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at Greenbelt 1 Cinema 1, 8:00 PM

Globe

Greenbelt

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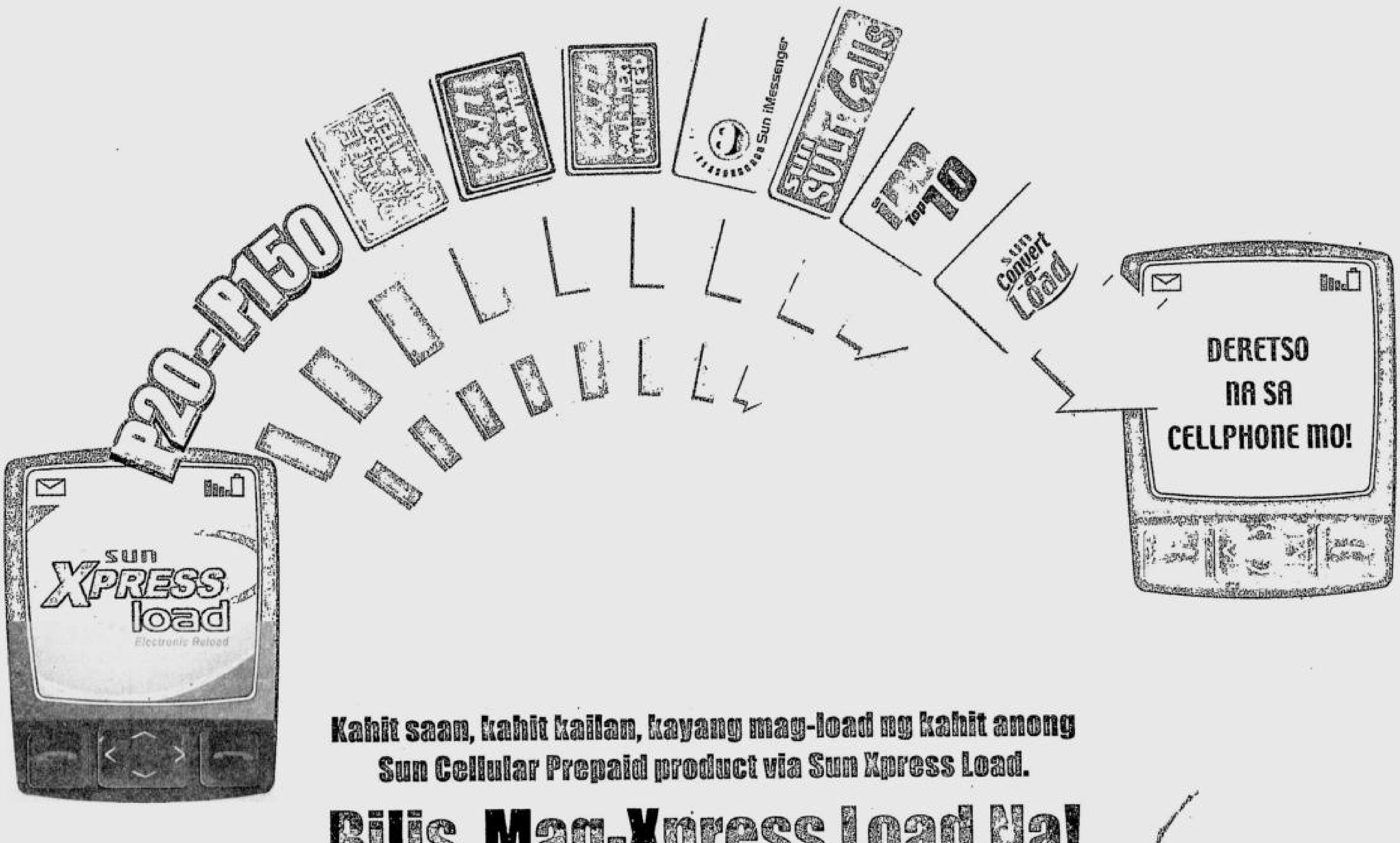

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

### GALLERIA 632-9116

1 MIAMI VICE • THX
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 CLICK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 SUKOB
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 LADY IN THE WATER
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

7 THE BREAK-UP
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

8 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

9 JUST MY LUCK
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 THE ANT BULLY
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

### ERMITA 536-7809 [illegible]

1 CLICK
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30

3 FIERCE PEOPLE
11:45 1:50 3:55 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 STORMBREAKER
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

5 SUKOB
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE ANT BULLY
10:20 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

7 MIAMI VICE
10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

### METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 THE BREAK-UP
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 THE ANT BULLY
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

3 SUKOB
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

4 MIAMI VICE
12:55 3:30 6:10 9:00

5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00

6 JUST MY LUCK
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 CLICK
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 STORMBREAKER
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

### NOVALICHES [illegible]

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 WOLF CREEK
4 SUKOB

### CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 SUKOB
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

### PIONEER 687-5378

1 CLICK
2 MIAMI VICE
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER

**"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO**

Kindly answer all questions completely.
Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series.
M_CH_EL M_NN
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
_OL_N FA_R_LL
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R_CA_D_ T__BS
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
SH_EN_ E_STO_
5. Miami is in what US State?
FL_R_DA

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* winners will be notified via registered mail only

NAME:
ADDRESS:
CONTACT NO.:
SIGNATURE

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### STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 CLICK
2 LOVE WRECKED
3 CHAOS
4 SUKOB

### LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 SUKOB
2 LOVE WRECKED
3 CLICK
4 CHAOS

### DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332

1 THE BREAK-UP
2 THE ANT BULLY
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

### ANGELES (045) 892-2346

1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 WILD ORCHID 2
4 SUKOB

### IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 WOLF CREEK
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

### STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-6270

1 TAMARA
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

### BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WOLF CREEK
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
6 WILD ORCHID 2

### ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 LADY IN THE WATER

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### METRO MANILA

**SM MALL OF ASIA** 556-0104
IMAX
ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
11:00AM 1:00PM 3:00PM 5:00PM 7:00PM
SUPERMAN RETURNS IN FULL IMAX 3D
9:00PM
P250 - Matinee (Mon-Thurs)
P300 - After 5 pm (Mon-Thurs) and all screenings (Fri-Sun)
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
2 CLICK
3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY/ CLICK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN/ FIERCE PEOPLE
6 STORMBREAKER
PREMIERE CINEMA
SUKOB
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
MIAMI VICE / CLICK
CENTERSTAGE
RESERVED
PODIUM
CINEMA 1 CLICK
CINEMA 2 MIAMI VICE
633-8976

**SM CITY SOUTHMALL** 806-6888
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 ANT BULLY
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
7 THE BREAK-UP
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
9 UMAARAW, UMUULAN

**SM CITY BICUTAN** 776-3055
1 STORMBREAKER
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

**SM MEGACINEMA** 633-1901
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE
5 ANT BULLY
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 SUKOB
11 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW** 935-0749
1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 CLICK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 WHITE LADY
11 JUST MY LUCK
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

**SM CITY STA. MESA** 716-1416
1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO** 786-2488
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 ANT BULLY
5 SUKOB
6 SUKOB

**SM NORTH EDSA** 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 SUKOB
6 MIAMI VICE
7 STORMBREAKER
8 CLICK
9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
11 ANT BULLY
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

**SM CITY MANILA** 523-9240
1 CLICK
2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 THE BREAK-UP
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 WHITE LADY
11 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12 SUKOB

**SM CITY DASMARINAS** (046)4323201-04
1 SUKOB
2 ANT BULLY
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

**SM VALENZUELA** 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

**SM CITY SUCAT** 829-4975
1 MIAMI VICE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 CLICK

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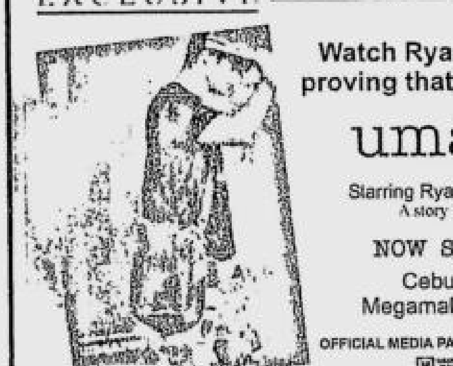

Watch Ryan Agoncillo in this modern day love story proving that love indeed, truly has its mysterious ways

umaaraw , umuulan

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**SM CITY BAGUIO** (074)6197838-39
1 ANT BULLY
2 CLICK
3 TAKE THE LEAD
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY MARILAO** (044)9332013-17
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 LOVEWRECKED

**SM CITY BACOOR** (046)417-3868
1 TAMARA
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 STORMBREAKER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 SUKOB
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
8 ANT BULLY

### LUZON

**SM CITY BATANGAS** 885-6401-04
1 CLICK
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY LUCENA** (042)7108977-80
1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
3 REINCARNATION
4 THE NUN

**SM CITY CLARK** (045)625-5844-45
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 JUST MY LUCK

**SM CITY PAMPANGA** (045)9637081-85
1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 ANT BULLY
4 TAMARA
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 SUKOB

**SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO** (046)474-3160
1 SUKOB
2 THE BREAK-UP
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 TAMARA

**SM CITY STA. ROSA** (049)5341205-66
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 TAMARA
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY CEBU** (032)231-3876
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 CLICK
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 EVIL DEAD
7 SUKOB
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

### VISAYAS MINDANAO

**SM CITY ILOILO** (033)3209422
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 RESERVED
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
7 RESERVED
8 SUPERMAN RETURNS

**SM CITY DAVAO** (082)2976998
1 CLICK
2 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

**SM CITY CAGAYAN** (088)859-2884
1 PIRATES OF CARIBBEA
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 CLICK

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EVENT CALENDAR SM SHOWTIME EVENT CALENDAR

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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

---

G2

# For Vina, work before love

From page G1

**learned about love?**

I do not regret anything that happened. I know God is preparing me for the man I deserve. If, one of these days, I fall and commit the same mistakes, it's okay. I'll stand up again. I know I'll make a good wife. I can give up my career … for a happy family.

**You're a very accomplished businesswoman. Do you think guys are intimidated?**

I don't think so. Of course, if you're a hardworking person, you deserve someone just as hardworking.

**Any movie offers lately? It's been a while since your last ("Di Pwedeng 'Di Pwede," with Robin Padilla).**

There are offers but I find most of them too daring. *Hindi ko kaya.*

**Is it true that you'll go topless and wear really sexy clothes in your concert?**

I really don't think I need to undress for a show. It's okay to reveal some skin. My outfits will be very sexy, but classy. *Yung hindi ako babastusin* after the show.

I'll be flying in the opening number, in a gold two-piece suit by Edwin Uy. I'm nervous about wearing it.

**Has breast enhancement ever crossed your mind?**

I'm fine with what I have. Sexiness is not based on how big your breasts are.

**What can the audience expect from your performance with Ai-ai delas Alas?**

*Seryosong* showdown *talaga*. I really love her. When I invited her to be my guest, she immediately said, *"Oo ba!"* No questions asked, not even about the talent fee. She also sings really well.

The show has four concepts/parts: Showgirl, with Ms. Ai-Ai, Bollywood with Ogie Alcasid, Ballroom Dancing with my sister (Shaina Magdayao), and Hip-hop/R&B with Jay-R.

**Who are your idols in dance?**

I love Beyoncé (Knowles). I also love Madonna.

**You're one of the few local artists who can actually sing and dance.**

I consider myself blessed. *Mahirap talagang gawin 'yun.* I really work out—I hit the treadmill for an hour each day, I do cardio exercises and I eat right. If I don't, I get breathless in the middle of the concert.

## POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ANT BULLY**<br>G<br>1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55 | **CLICK**<br>PG13<br>1:10.3:30,5:50,8:10 | **STORM BREAKER**<br>PG13<br>1:25,3:35,5:45,<br>7:55,10:10 |
| **SUKOB**<br>PG13<br>1:15,3:25,5:35,7:45 | **THE BREAK-UP**<br>R13<br>2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50 | **MIAMI VICE**<br>R13<br>1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10 |

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE: FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
**MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY**

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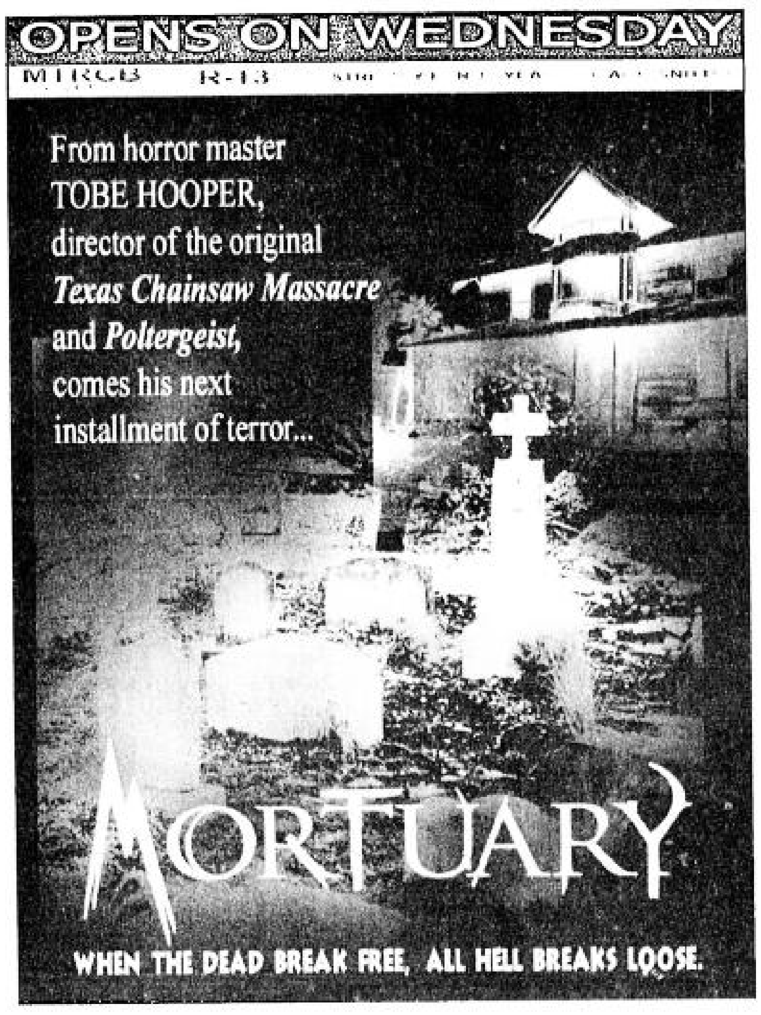
## OPENS ON WEDNESDAY

MTRCB R-13



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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| CINEMA | TITLE | TIMES | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | STORMBREAKER | 11:45, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50 | PG-13 |
| 2 | ANT BULLY | 11:35 , 1:45 , 3:55 6:05 , 8:15 , 10:25 | GP |

### PROMENADE

GREENHILLS

*...a dinetertainment for all!*

NOW SHOWING

| CINEMA | TITLE | TIMES | RATING |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | CLICK | 11:40 , 2:20 , 5:00 7:40 , 10:20 | PG-13 |
| 4 | MIAMI VICE | 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 | R-13 |
| 5 | CLICK | 11:05 , 1:50 , 4:30 7:10 , 9:50 | PG-13 |

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496

**MUSIC MUSEUM**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AUG 17,18,24,25 & 31 | GARY V | 8:00PM |
| AUG 28 , 2006 | NONOY ZUNIGA | 8:00PM |

**T·E·A·TINO**
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| EVERY MONDAY | DANCE NIGHT | 7:00PM |
| EVERY WEDNESDAY | CERRUDO .. CLASSICO | 8:00PM |
| AUG. 19 , 2006 | PRIME COUNSEL | 9.00PM |
| AUG. 24-26 , 2006 | DAVID POMERANZ | 9.00PM |
| | FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722 4532 LOC 118 | |

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## BACK to the '60s WITH the BLOOMFIELDS

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Eastwood City

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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

| TITLE | TIMES | RATING |
|---|---|---|
| STORM BREAKER | 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 | PG-13 |
| CLICK | 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 | PG-13 |
| MIAMI VICE | 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10 | R-13 |
| SUKOB | 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05 | PG-13 |

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## SHANG CINEPLEX

| CINEMA | TITLE | RATING | TIMES |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | ANT BULLY | MTRCB GP | 1:00, 3:15, 5:30 |
| 2 | CLICK | MTRCB PG-13 | 12.00, 2.30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00 |
| 3 | SUKOB | MTRCB PG-13 | 12.00, 2:30, 5.00, 7.30, 10.00 |
| 4 | MIAMI VICE | MTRCB R-13 | 1.00, 4.00, 7.00, 10.00 |
| PREMIERE THEATRE | STORMBREAKER | MTRCB PG-13 | 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00 |

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

### Catch the Cineplex Special

**Shang Cineplex MONDAYS AND TUESDAY SPECIALS are back!**
On Mondays and Tuesdays, starting August 14, enjoy special prices of P99 for Cinemas 1-4 , P120 for the Premiere Theatre (exclusive of food and drinks)
**Not applicable to selected movies, on holidays, and in conjunction with other Shang Cineplex discounts and promos.**
Specials last until Nov. 14, 2006. See posters and flyers for details
Per DTI NCR Permit No. A3 0608, Series of 2006

Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

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## OPENS AUG 16

**Cameron Bailey (Programmer, Toronto International Film Festival):** *It is a powerful, beautifully observed film with a very affecting lead performance.*

**Rina Jimenez-David (Columnist, Philippine Daily Inquirer):** *In Kubrador, Jeturian has shown the maturity of his gifts. The years may have padded her features, but Pareño remains a compelling performer.*

**Julia Khomiakova (FIPRESCI, Russia):** *The FIPRESCI award to Kubrador was a unanimous choice. We have never seen anything like it.*

**Mario Bautista (Columnist, People's Journal):** *Kubrador is the most daring film we've seen in years. It is Jeturian's most thought-provoking work so far with Pareno in the best performance of her life and career.*

**Philip Cheah (Programmer, Singapore International Film Festival):** *I think it is Jeturian's best work since Pila Balde and Tuhog. The lead actress, who is a fat lady, is brilliant.*

**Tito Valiente (Columnist, Business Mirror):** *If we are going to cheer and dream for the hope of our film industry, we look for them in films like Kubrador, and in actor like Gina Pareño. She is bound to shock those who have counted her as a losing bet.*

**Billy Balbastro (Columnist, Abante):** *Kubrador is a jewel of a film-well crafted and elegantly told with a strong social and political statement.*

**Italo Spinelli (Consultant, Rome Film Festival):** *The people behind Kubrador should be very proud. It marks a renaissance of Filipino films. It is so powerful and daring.*

*...only few of the reasons why you should not miss this film!*

BEST FILM
BEST ACTRESS
FIPRESCI
Jury Prize
BEST FILM
8th Osian Cine Fan Festival of Asian Cinema

FIPRESCI
Jury Prize
BEST FILM
28th Moscow International Film Festival

31st Toronto International Film Festival
11th Pusan International Film Festival
28th Havana International Film Festival
30th Sao Paulo International Film Festival
25th Vancouver International Film Festival
27th Thessaloniki International Film Festival
33rd Brussels Independent Film Festival
5th Mumbai Asian Film Festival
7th Rome Asiatica Film Mediale
2nd Antalya Eurasian Film Festival
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MLR Films presents
GINA PAREÑO
**KUBRADOR**
JUETENG
R-13
CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD GRADED A
a film by JEFFREY JETURIAN

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## AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 | 1 MIAMI VICE | 2 CLICK | 3 STORMBREAKER | 4 SUKOB |
| G4 | 1 CLICK | 2 SUKOB | 3 THX JUST MY LUCK<br>12:30, 2:30, 4:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 FIERCE PEOPLE | 5 STORMBREAKER | 6 ANT BULLY | 7 MIAMI VICE |
| GB1 | 1 SUKOB | 2 CLICK | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX MIAMI VICE<br>3:00, 5:40, 8:20, 11:00<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX CLICK<br>2:20, 4:35, 6:0, 9:05, 11:20<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 THE ANT BULLY<br>1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 FIERCE PEOPLE<br>2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 SUKOB<br>2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX CLICK | 2 MIAMI VICE | | |
| | 3 SUKOB | 4 ANT BULLY | 5 STORMBREAKER | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 CLICK | 2 JUST MY LUCK | 3 THE BREAK-UP | 4 WOLF CREEK |
| M2 MARKET! MARKET! | 1 CLICK | 2 STORMBREAKER | | |
| | 3 ANT BULLY | 4 SUKOB | 5 MIAMI VICE | |

## At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853: from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|
| Ansons Exhibit<br>August 7 to 22, 2006 | Cirque Imago<br>August 18 to 20 |
| **AYALA CENTER CEBU** | **MARKET! MARKET!** |
| 5th Philippines Robotics Olympiad<br>August 26, 2006 | PBA Draft<br>August 20, 2006 |

| | |
|---|---|
| GREENBELT | Jazz Nights at GB 2<br>August 16, 23 & 30, 2006 |
| GREENBELT Onstage | Repertory Philippines presents<br>Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR.<br>at REP's Globe Theater - Aug. 12, 20, 26, Sept. 3, 9, Oct. 14 & 22<br>For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 |
| Ayala MUSEUM | Ode To The Pasig River<br>June 27 to August 27, 2006<br>For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org |

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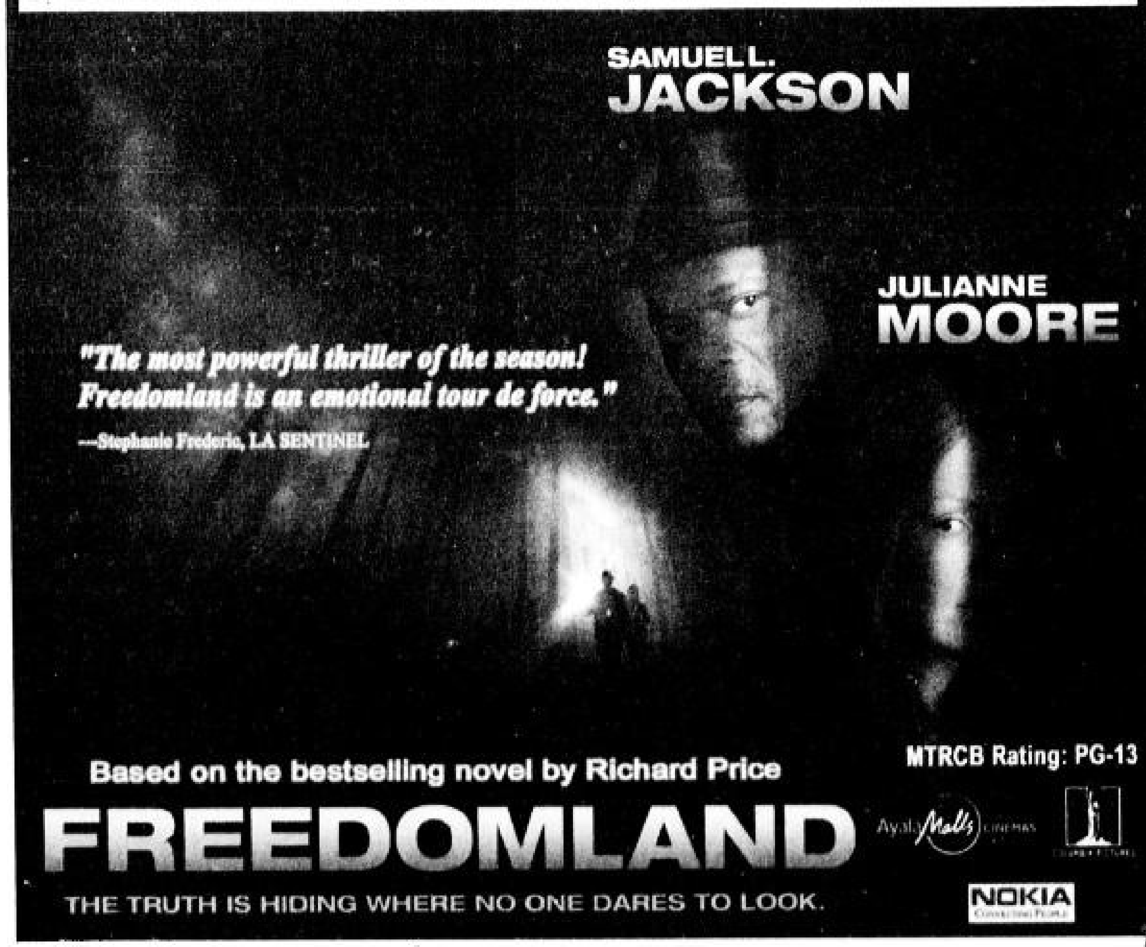
OPENS AUGUST 16 AT EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS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JACKSON
JULIANNE
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—Stephanie Frederic, LA SENTINEL
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FREEDOMLAND
THE TRUTH IS HIDING WHERE NO ONE DARES TO LOOK.
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# *Who is Bakekang, and why is it such a coveted role?*

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JD Fortune

BAKEKANG IS THE LEAD CHARACTER IN the *komiks* novel of the same title written by Carlo J. Caparas and serialized in Bondying Komiks in the 1970s.

Born with a hideous face, Bakekang got herself pregnant by an American and bore a beautiful child, whom she pushed into show biz stardom.

Nora Aunor starred in the movie version in 1978.

**RUSHES**

Rushes heard that Kris Aquino expressed interest in the role in case of a remake. But when Caparas was earlier talking to ABS-CBN for a TV series versopm, the top candidate at the time was Ai-Ai de las Alas.

Now that GMA 7 has sealed the deal, the role is reportedly a toss-up between Sheryl Cruz and Sunshine Dizon. For the role of Krystal, Bakekang's daughter, it could be Lovi Poe, Jackie Rice or Yasmien Kurdi.

## They did?

SPEAKING of Ai-Ai—is it true the Kapamilya network extended her soap, "Bituing Walang Ningning" so she couldn't do "Bakekang" on the Kapuso network?

## 'X'-ed trailer

THE TRAILER of Mel Chionglo's "Twilight Dancers" has been rated "X" by the MTRCB. *Hmmm.*

## Big shoes to fill

JD FORTUNE, INXS' new front man, has big shoes to fill, indeed, and a big space in the hearts of those devastated by Michael Hutchence's passing in 1997 (by suicide or acccidental strangulation—it's not been conclusively determined). Among those who grieved, as a colleague and friend, was Bono of U2.

LOVI

From "INXS—Story to Story: The Official Autobiography" by the band members and Anthony Bozza:

It took Bono three years to write a song that made sense of Michael Hutchence passing. "Stuck in a Moment (You Can't Get Out Of)," from 2000's "All That You Can't Leave Behind," became an American anthem for 9-11 healing, but it was written as the message to Michael that Bono never did deliver.

"I didn't want to write a saccharine, sentimental song for him," Bono says. "I wanted it to be tough ... it's just saying, 'Please stop this. Please, please wake up.' You could have that kind of conversation with Michael. He'd hear you. I just wish I had."

INXS is in town for a single gig tomorrow.

## Cohabitant abuse

LOS ANGELES—Actor Lou Diamond Phillips was arrested in a Los Angeles suburb for alleged domestic abuse.

The police responded to a phone call from the actor's home in Northridge, northwest of Los Angeles, and arrived to find Phillips and his girlfriend in a spat. He was charged with cohabitant abuse. *AFP*

## Eau de Britney

PARIS— A skin-deep brush with fame is now just a spritz away. You can douse yourself with eau de Britney, Paris or JLo, as stars jump on the lucrative fragrance bandwagon by creating their signature scent.

Celebrity fragrances are the fastest growing segment of the US$2.9-billion market, according to market researcher NPD Group. *AP*

## MTV hosts

KC Montero

NEWS from New York: The MTV Music Video Awards are about to get a dose of Jack Black. The actor-slash-rocker will host this year's version of the anything-can-happen extravaganza, set for Aug. 31, MTV announced Thursday.

And in Manila, VJ KC Montero is hosting MTV Pilipinas Video Music Awards tonight.

## Divorcing Dave

LOS ANGELES— Carmen Electra filed for divorce from rocker Dave Navarro, according to Superior Court documents.

Navarro currently co-hosts the CBS talent contest "Rock Star: Supernova." Electra just finished filming the movie "I Want Candy." *AP*

## For "House" addicts

THE GRUMPY Dr. Gregory House is back with his arsenal of sarcasm and his edgy team starting tonight, and it's irresistible. Uh, we mean the AXN series "House," Season 2. Some sneak peeks: 1) House is sooo not over his ex-partner Stacey. 2) He gets a big bike—midlife crisis? 3) In Episode 2, a 10-year-old cancer victim asks for, and gets a kiss, from Chase. 4) Cameron jumps Chase! 5) A bed scene. Yikes!

**"HOUSE" CAST.** Clockwise, from left: Jennifer Morrison, Omar Epps, Hugh Laurie, Jesse Spencer, Lisa Edelstein, Robert Sean Leonard

## Postscript

P.S. Six years ago this week, actresses Ellen DeGeneres and Anne Heche announced they were breaking up. Hours later, Heche was hospitalized after she wandered disoriented into a stranger's home in Fresno County, California. AP

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